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THE

TAYLOR's

COMPLETE GUIDE;

OR,

A Comprehensive Analysis of

BEAUTY and ELEGANCE in DRESS.

Containing Rules for cutting out

GARMENTS OF EVERY KIND,

And fitting any Person with the greatest ACCURACY and PRECISION, adapted to all Sizes.

Pointing out, in the clearest Manner,

The former Errors in the Profession, and the Method of rectifying what may have been done amiss.

Rendered plain and easy to the meanest Capacity.

ILLUSTRATED WITH COPPER-PLATES.

To which is added,

A Description to cut out and make the

PATENT ELASTIC HABITS and CLOATHS,

Without the usual Seams,

Now in the highest Estimation with the Nobility and Gentry,

According to a Patent granted by His Majesty.

The Whole Concerted and Devised

By a Society of ADEPTS in the PROFESSION.

LONDON:

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DEDICATION.

To all the MASTER TAYLORS, JOURNEYMEN, APPRENTICES, *and the* PARENTS *of* APPRENTICES, *and the whole Body Corporate of the* TRADE.

THE following Treatiſe may in ſome meaſure claim your Patronage; as it was concerted and undertaken for the Benefit of the Trade in general; and to alleviate the Difficulty that may arriſe through Want of Experience. We ſincerely wiſh we may be found as clear in our Communications in Detail, as we are conſcious of the Motives which induced us to dedicate a few Leiſure Hours to oblige our Fellow Labourers, whoſe Want of Practice, as well as Oppor-

tunity, could never enable them to compaſs the Merits of the Buſineſs. It has been our chief Study to lead the Ignorant and Inexperienced Taylor into the Road of Proſperity and Happineſs.

That we have ſtrictly adhered to this, the Trade will find, who will take the Trouble to reviſe our Labours, and ſtudy the Maxims we have laid down. It is our ſincere Wiſh, that the Trade may be enlightened, and Human Nature receive its proper Embelliſhment, by the Improvement of graceful Dreſs, and compleat Fitting. We ſincerely hope we have given Satisfaction, under which grateful Senſe, we humbly dedicate our Endeavours to the Trade, and Mankind in general, ſincerely begging we may be permitted to ſubſcribe ourſelves, with Reſpect,

Gentlemen,

Your moſt humble, moſt obedient,

And very dutiful Servants,

THE AUTHORS.

PREFACE.

WE know not how the Connoiſſeurs and Judges of Literature may receive this Work. It is our firſt Eſſay; and being but ſuperficial Judges of logical Diſquiſitions, and other Embelliſhments of Diction, we ſhall beg Leave moſt humbly to ſhield ourſelves under the Banner of good Intent. Our chief Motive in this Undertaking is to improve the Trade, remove the Barbariſm from the general Mode of Practice, eſtabliſh a Criterion to avoid Error, and leave a laſting Monitor to all ſucceeding Generations.

It has been by the Dint of great Application and much Practice, that we have arrived at the perfect Standard we mean to define to the Trade in the following Sheets; for as every Effect has its primeval Cauſe, we ſhall point out

out ſuch certain Rules, which if properly adhered to, will prevent Error in the Application, and the Learner will gain Credit by fitting his Employer well on his firſt Effort.

It has long been to the great Diſgrace of the greateſt City in the World, where the Arts and Sciences are ſo liberally courted, and the Palm ſo nearly won, that clothing Human Nature ſhould remain a Secret as to Certainty; for by obſerving the groteſque Figures we daily meet in the Streets, to whom Nature has been extremely bountiful, you plainly perceive by the Diſtortion and cutting of the Garments, that the whole is erroneous, and void of Deſign as of Method. We remember a Taylor in the Country, whoſe chief Boaſt was his great Experience, having made Clothes for three ſucceeding Generations. Being interrogated by a new Rector of the Pariſh, touching his Skill in fitting, he made Anſwer, that knowing all the neweſt Faſhions, which he progreſſively learned from a Friend in London, and fitting People like Skin upon their Backs, by which he had got all his Reputation and vaſt Cuſtom.

The

The Divine being ſatisfied by this feaſible Aſſertion, unfortunately put his French ſuperfine black Cloth into his Hand; but alas! when he received his Coat from the Taylor, he too fatally found he had been gulled; for one of the Sleeves was an Inch and an half too ſhort; the Elbow of the other was cut two Inches above the Bend of the Arm, too low in the Neck, the Waiſt too ſhort, the Skirts lower before than behind; and what was worſe, it was not wide enough in the Waiſt by five Inches. The Rector aſked him what he meant by deceiving him in a Matter of ſuch material Conſequence? The Taylor told him he could not ſee how it could happen to fit ſo badly, for he had made it by the *blue Pattern*, which he never knew to fail before.

This Method of working by Patterns, we are afraid, is too much followed by the Trade; inſtead of working by their Lengths, and following Nature in every exiſting Circumſtance. Patterns can be but of little Service to any but Slop-makers, where they have them from the ſmalleſt Size to the largeſt Figure upon proportionable

portionable Scales; but where Nature has a little ſported with the Formation of a Figure, a Perſon would be as ridiculous in one of thoſe ſlop-made Coats, (though perhaps not very outré in the Length or Width) as the poor diſappointed Rector was in his Coat made by the blue Pattern.

To arrive at Certainty is the Perfection of Art, which we hope clearly to elucidate to the Satisfaction of the Trade; therefore hope no Practitioner will think his Time and Labour loſt, by endeavouring to acquire a Knowledge of the Maxims in the following Sheets; for ſurely, no Situation can be more diſtreſſing than that of a Taylor, who having cut and mutilated his own or his Employer's Cloth, waſted his Trimmings and Labour, which will frequently be the Caſe, when a Man has nothing to depend upon but the poor bankrupt Reſource of Chance or Hope that his Clothes will fit. Much depends on Practice, although you are poſitively in Poſſeſſion of the Theory, which we ſhall clearly detail in every Stage and Circumſtance.

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THE

TAYLOR's GUIDE.

INTRODUCTION.

ONE of the firſt things to be acquired in order to the improvement of arts and the enlarging of our ideas, is for a time to ſtep out of the beaten way of common practice; and by a prudent reſerve and charitable modeſty, make ſuch ſtrict and judicious enquiries into the matter you would fathom, before you make any anti-concluſions to the theme in queſtion.

We are not unapprized what objections may be made to the bold aſſertion of arriving at the *Ne Plus Ultra* in any art.

Science is the knowledge of things in their cauſes, and the way to arrive at it, is by conſequence and deduction. We muſt own our beſt knowledge is ſometimes imperfect and fallacious: After all our confidence, it is poſſible, things may be otherwiſe. This muſt be when demonſtrations are raiſed from falſe Principles, but when genuine Effects, produced by natural Rudiments, and proportionate Syſtems appear from Efficient Cauſes, and when the Object is within the Boundaries of our own Intellects, we muſt pronounce the axiom incontrovertible; upon theſe Principles we build our Superſtructure—theſe are the criterions of our Propoſitions, and we hope the Trade will aſſent to them as ſoon as they compaſs their meaning, and conclude the Syſtem true. The blind hypotheſis of certainty, we own, may be alledged as full of difficulty and doubt, eſpecially in ſo abſtruſe and complex an Art as the variegated Maxims

of Cutting Cloths, when the leaſt Error of appropriating or uniting the moſt trifling ſeparation of any of the Parts, would overturn our boaſted Syſtem; this we may allow, but this could not happen where the Practice is coincident with the Theory, and both conjoin to diſplay their reaſonable Efforts together; it is enough for our Theory to know, that we poſſeſs ſuch Principles of Art, ſanctioned by long Experience; which we hope clearly to define both by Precept and Example, and which the Trade muſt aſſent to when there is not the moſt diſtant Shadow of occaſion to doubt the truth of either.

We hope our Maxims will be Univerſal; that every one may know and practice, if they will but give themſelves Time for application, and move modeſtly on till they arrive at the beautiful Temple of Certainty, where their Buſineſs will be conceived, as ſoon as premiſed, and executed with Pleaſure, Eaſe, and Satisfaction—not ſubject to the opinions, whims, fancies, and fooliſh humours of miſtaken Men; but a certainty all the World over

averred by positive conclusions, clearly and distinctly perceived by every Artist in the Trade, and that they are peremptorily established. If we may not be thought too sanguine in the Cause we have espoused, we think we may with veracity say, that a Treatise of this kind has been long wanted. Why nobody has explored the unbeaten Path to its full extent, we are at a loss to say, for certainly if it was ever known, the Possessor of the Art suffered the secret to die with him; for nothing we have seen has the least resemblance of that which we mean to possess the Trade with.

That all the world may be improved, and human nature receive its pristine Grace and Elegance, is the principal object of our ambition; and by administering to the general good, and conferring an obligation upon industrious Individuals, our ultimate end will be answered.

Of

Of Faſhion.

WHEN the Boundaries of an Art is properly defined, we proceed to ſhew and garniſh the fancy with every Grace that is excellent in that Art; we conclude that Science is confirmed of the truth which enlivens the Imagination, and we modeſtly look forward for Incidents to facilitate the Mind with what is moſt congenial to the Subject, for an embelliſhment of Taſte, Faſhion, and Elegance—in this, the Eye has its correſpondence in all that is juſt and beautiful; it acquires a kind of habitual nicety, and anſwers every genuine Impreſſion which reſults from ocular Demonſtration; the Eye will ſoon diſcriminate between Grace and Affectation, between the Elegant *Contour* and Dreſs of a complete Gentleman, and the extravagant whimſies of a City Fop—theſe are great conſiderations in the article of

Dreſs, the former being the reſult of Grace, Senſibility, and refined experience, the latter the extravagance of folly, under the ſanction of the Whim of Faſhion; though we would have all our Brothers of the Trade underſtand us right, in this great particular; although we may in theſe Sheets have occaſion to criminate the Luxury of the Whim to ſhew what is oppoſite to Grace and Elegance, we by no means diſcountenance the Votaries of Faſhion; for we are well convinced of its Uſe and Benefits. The novelty of Faſhion is the Nurſery of Trade, the propagator of the Arts, and Field of great Employment. By Faſhions our fancies are conſtantly amuſed, by the brilliancy of every newly engendered Improvement, and our Minds become reſpondent for every Change,—in this gradation our underſtandings are paſſive till we arrive at the very ſummit of Exceſs, and having there regaled ourſelves upon the very top, and *apex* of our fancies, we grow tired with the ſameneſs of the Scene, 'till the fluctuating Goddeſs takes a retroſpective view of the variegated ſteps by which ſhe aſcended; ſhe then modeſtly returns to the

medium

medium from which we ſtarted, nearly by the ſame progreſſion, and when we are ſeated there, and in poſſeſſion of all the proportions of Symmetry that can give graceful effect to Drapery, we are ſtill unſatisfied; the Mind is not at Eaſe, ſtill Fancy leads us by the ſame meanders, till we are ſuduced to the oppoſite extreme.

Thus are the Arts encouraged, Trade ſupported, and Mankind made happy by their Induſtry and Endeavours for the benefit of Society and the general good; ſo much advantage does Trade receive from Faſhion: but we muſt have the Reader underſtand, that though this fickle Goddeſs is ſo beneficial and neceſſary, ſhe by no means holds an arbitrary ſtation in our Theory—for it is but of little conſequence to a complete Taylor, what the Faſhions are; his buſineſs is to fit the body, that no conſtriction or unnatural compreſſion may be felt in any part, that freedom without contraction, and liberty without redundancy, may be the ſource and Theme of his Practice.

It matters not whether narrow or broad Backs are the Rage of Faſhion, ſtand-up or turn-down Collars, ſhort or long Waiſts, or whatever turn the cut of the Skirts may take, the ultimate end is to cut and fit well, taking care to harmonize the prevalence of the Whim, by aſſimilating the Parts with Prudence and Eaſe, having the following Maxim in view, *That the very Pride of Elegance is Collective Neatneſs.*

Never ſtrive to hurry on exceſſes, let them move gradually as Cuſtom ſanctions the prevalence, and remember that all Faſhions are moſt bearable upon well-turned figures; for obſerve, when Clothes of broad Backs, long Skirts, and heavy Sleeves are the *Ton*, how prepoſterous it would be to go to the very extreme with a light ſmall figure; ſuch a Perſon, under ſuch a circumſtance, muſt be almoſt immerſed in Cloth,—on the other extreme, how truly ridiculous did a heavy athletic Man look a few ſeaſons ago, with a back to his Coat not more than three inches broad, ſkewered up like one of the new raiſed Infantry,

ſantry, without front or Skirt to cover his Body or Breech. So much we mean as a hint to the learner, that he may deviſe a happy medium on every occaſion, and never exceed the dictates of Reaſon.

If your Employer ſhould be an over ſtrenuous advocate for the reigning Faſhions of the Times, endeavour to point out the happy medium you would aim at, and ſhew him what is repugnant to Elegance and graceful-ſeeming; if rational, it may perhaps excite him to moderation, which when properly underſtood, will reflect great credit both upon your Wiſdom and Practice.

Notwithſtanding what we have urged here as a bar to exceſſes, we muſt allow that Faſhions in many Caſes are very captivating; for things that are new raiſe a kind of pleaſure in the Fancy, ſurprize as it were the Imagination, and gratify the curioſity with things it did not poſſeſs before.

If it were not for the unſtable fluctuation of Faſhions, People would be too familiar with one ſet of objects, and wearied out with the dull repetition of the ſame thing. Therefore we muſt allow whatever is new or uncommon, adds to the pleaſureable variety of human Taſte; it ſerves us as a kind of refreſhment—yet we muſt return to our former opinion, that nothing ſtrikes ſo forcibly upon the mind as Beauty in Perfection—that is the Seat of Satisfaction; when we once attain that, the Imagination is at reſt, and the Faculties are in their meridian of Enjoyment, beholding the Picture of Eaſe united with Simplicity in Elegance and Splendor.

SECTION

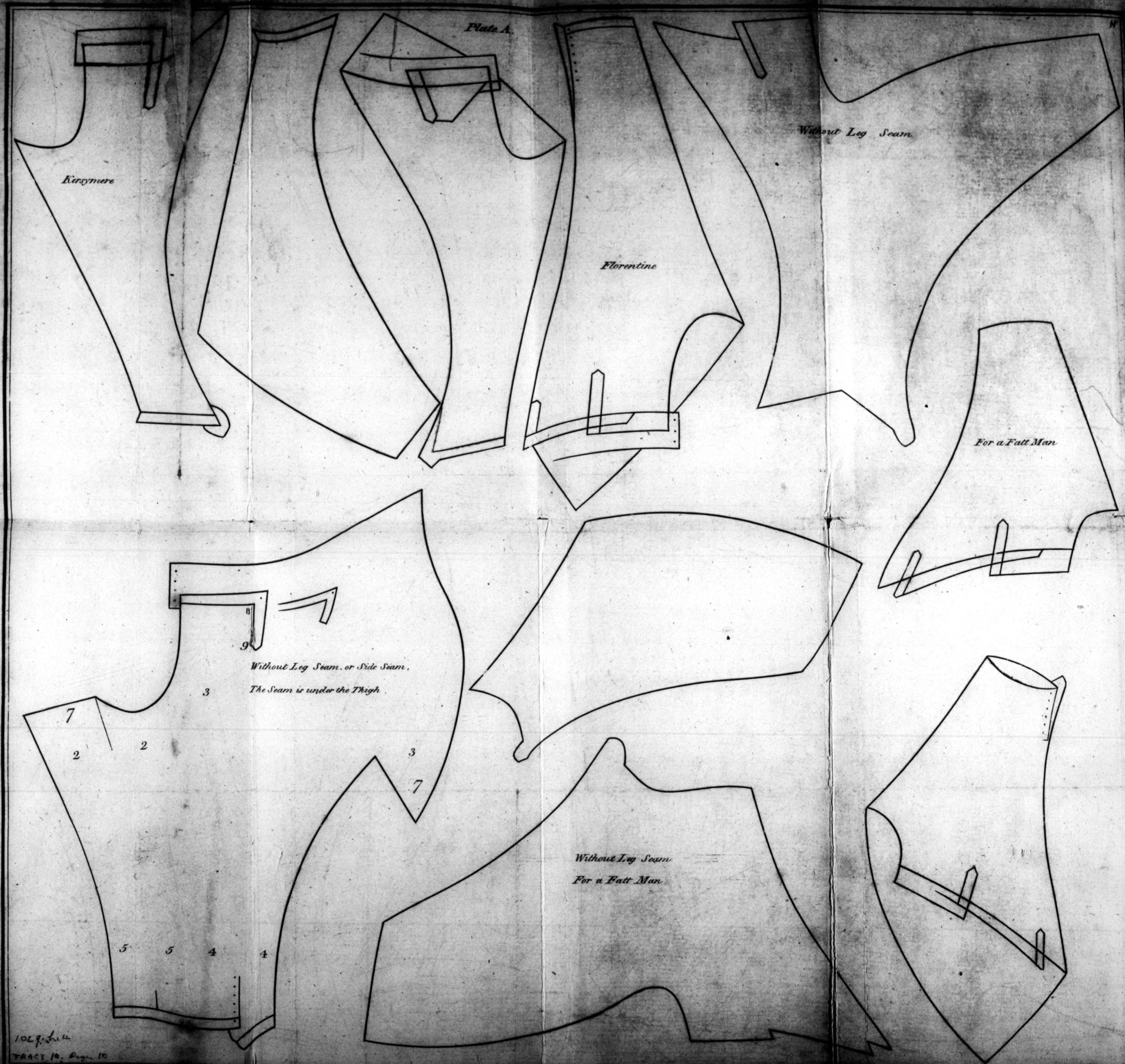
Plate A.
Kersymere
Florentine
Without Leg Seam
For a Fatt Man
Without Leg Seam, or Side Seam,
The Seam is under the Thigh.
Without Leg Seam
For a Fatt Man
8
9
3
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SECTION I.

CHAP. I.

Of the Theory and Practice of Breeches.

THIS delicate and neceſſary appendage to Dreſs requires more comments than the Trade would perhaps really imagine, chiefly owing to the great variety of materials of which they are compoſed for choice and approbation of various cuſtomers, and as they may ſuit the purpoſes of various occaſions; for in all the changes and various textures of the different ſtuffs to be uſed in thoſe matters, there is a ſerious difference both in the Theory and Practice, as will appear in their ſeparate definitions—owing to the elaſticity of ſome, the turgidity of others, and repulſion of the reſt: therefore till our Student has ſifted and properly digeſted this matter, and availed himſelf of the different maxims of meaſure and making,

making, and, as it were, ſcrewed them to his Memory, we hope he will carefully read and follow the examples hereunto annexed, as they will prove to him in every reſpect a perfect juſtification of our precepts.

CHAP. II.

How to Meaſure Gentlemen for Worſted Stocking Breeches, Ribbed or Plain.

FIRST lay the end of your Meaſure up a the Hip Bone, and extend the Meaſure down the Thigh to the bottom of the Cap of the Knee, and as much lower as the rage of Faſhion may induce the Party to require it.

Secondly meaſure the Thigh very tight, alſo meaſure tight below the Knee, and likewiſe meaſure tight the hollow part above the Knee, next meaſure the thick part alſo tight as poſſible—then meaſure round the ſmall part of the Body for the length of the Waiſtband, which is all that is neceſſary.

CHAP.

CHAP. III,

Of Cutting and Making.

WHEN at your Cutting Board, and have your Stocking Piece before you, obſerve the following maxim, which entirely reſults from the ſtretch or elaſticity that there is in all Frame Work of this nature, and requires that the Breeches muſt be three Inches longer than the Meaſure.—But for more particulars, we refer you to the Plates.

Lay your Meaſure upon the Piece within one Inch and half of the top, then extend it to the intended place for the Knee, and mark it, and cut it longer an inch and a half below at the Knee; then for the width lay on the meaſure at the bottom of the Knee, and mark for cutting one inch narrower than the meaſure upon the Stuff in the double, and one inch leſs in gradation all the way up the Thigh, and be ſure to abide by the following Example for the ſtride.

First make a deep fall down, and having laid your Finger upon the Meaſure at the bottom of the Knee, with the other Hand extend the Meaſure to the fork, and make the ſtride within three inches of the length of the Meaſure; this will give proper room for the elaſticity of the materials, and eaſe and freedom to the Wearer.

Next cut your leg ſeam very ſtraight, and not hollow as is the common practice; and let your ſide ſeams be likewiſe ſtraight from the Knee ſlit up to within four inches of the Hip; and obſerve you put in a Guſſet Piece from that place on the outſide of the Hip two inches and a half wide at the top, and cut taper or bevelled down to a point five inches long, both of the outſide and inſide.

When thus done, and your Breeches are put on, you will find the Ribs go ſtraight down the Thighs, which will avoid and provide againſt an abominable error in the Trade, of twiſting the Ribs acroſs the Thighs, making them appear crooked, inwardly inclining,

which ſeems to the ſpectator (according to the old vulgar adage) as if people were ill ſhap'd or knap-knee'd. When you have got ſo far, cut your ſeat at the joining of the waiſt-band, leſs by two inches double; and in making, let your Knee Band be cut one inch longer than your Meaſure, and baſte it on Lining, and ſew it in with the Knee Band to the Breeches, this will keep them to the full ſize at the bottom, and make them lie agreeably, and riſe to the ſpringing of the Calf of the Leg, if required. Let both the Knee Band and Waiſtband be beared on according to your length of them (both) and not the Breeches, which, though diametrically oppoſite to the common practice in uſe, we do affirm is poſitively right, and the true way proved and juſtified by long experience, and which will convince every practitioner on his firſt Eſſay, if he does but ſtrictly adhere to the rule.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

How to make Silk Frame Breeches.

THE method of cutting, meaſuring, and making of Silk Frame Breeches, are the ſame in every reſpect as the worſted ones already defined, with this exception, that as the elaſticity in Silk is more than that in Worſted, the true method is to cut them half an inch leſs in every place of the widths in the double, and three quarters of an inch longer in the lengths.

Note. If they are to be lined, be ſure only to faſten the Linings round the top to the Waiſtband, and leave them quite looſe at the Knee, and for the manner of cutting the Linings, take the following inſtructions.

Cut

Cut them one inch longer than the Meaſure, and half an inch double wider; give them plenty of ſtride up within one inch of the top of the Meaſure, after the ſame mode of practice you purſued in cutting the outſide, and cut the ſeat two inches wider than the length of the Waiſtband, and bear it on in putting into the Breeches, that they may anſwer the elaſticity of the outſide. Cotton Drawers require more ſtride than any others in uſe, owing to the repulſion or contraction of the ſtuff.

If the Linings are to be of Flannel, or what is called Swan Skin by the Trade, cut them half an inch leſs than the Meaſure, and even a diminution of that, leſs in regular proportion, if the texture be very fine.

If the Linings are of Dimity, follow the ſame example as in cutting the Cotton ones, which will anſwer the intended purpoſe.

CHAP. V.

Rule for Cutting Stocking Breeches for a Fat Man.

WHEN you meaſure a fat man, firſt lay your meaſure in the hollow of the groin, by the ſide of the fall down, and extend it to the inſide of the Knee and to the bottom of the leg ſeam, and mark your meaſure.

Secondly, lay it as near the hip as poſſible, and down to the ſtring or buckle of the outſide. Having made your mark, do not be aſhamed of meaſuring this twice; for though there is no more difficulty in fitting a fat man than a thin one, if you are correct in taking your dimenſions; but in this caſe, to be certain, it requires great circumſpection. In taking your front length, be ſure your meaſure goes up to the hollow under the belly, and not above that

part in front; for it is a general complaint that fat men's breeches are moſtly too long at the knees, chiefly owing to the weight and preſſure of the belly which bears them down from the Hips.

Thirdly, for compaſſing the width, take your girth below the knee above at the knee ſlit, and as high up the thigh as poſſible.

Fourthly, obſerve well the length of the Waiſtband, as there are often groſs errors committed in this particular.

Having proceeded ſo far, and your piece being laid before you, and the object in view, both in plate and perſon, lay on your meaſure to the different parts, and obſerve when cutting they muſt be one inch leſs than the meaſure (if Silk or Worſted Stocking) the length of the ſtride muſt be to the full length of the meaſure from the groin under the belly to the bottom of the leg ſeam; and alſo take notice that in laying on your meaſure in this place, you will find in the making that the ſides of

the Leg ſeams muſt be one inch longer than the bottom of the Knee Slit. This is neceſſary in all Breeches for fat men. In the next place be ſure to give them a good riſing on the Hip, as much higher than in the groin by four inches, according to plate. And in taking the length of the ſeat lay your meaſure on the point of the fork at the top of the Leg ſeam; keep your finger on that, whilſt you extend it to the hip, and after run it up to the ſeat ſeam one inch longer to the hip than it is from the fork, which ſtrictly adhered to will fully accompliſh the intent of this awkward and difficult Practice.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Theory and Practice of Black Florentine Breeches.

AS thoſe materials are of a very delicate nature, I hope the Taylor will be particularly circumſpect; as an error committed in things

of ſuch value may be very diſtreſſing; eſpecially if they ſhould be returned, the loſs might be ſerious to a poor Tradeſman; but to proceed.

Firſt, meaſure from the hip-bone down to below the cap of the Knee, as before obſerved in former directions; then meaſure for the width below the knee, very tight.——Your next meaſure above at the knee ſlit muſt be very eaſy, and alſo meaſure eaſy at the thick part of the thigh; then meaſure round the ſmall of the body for the waiſtband.

N. B. If it ſhould be a tall man you are meaſuring, you will require two yards and a quarter of Florentine.

Directions at the Cutting Board.

Lay your meaſure upon your piece, and mark out the place at the top for your pockets, then mark your fall down to the fork, and in marking this bring it ſtraight down within

four inches of the top of the leg ſeam, from which place turn up your line gradually according to plate, and with regularity up to the fork for the ſtride; afterwards mark your leg ſeam ſtraight as poſſible to the knee, then from your ſide ſeam make them half an inch wider in the double of the ſtuff than your meaſure all the way up the thigh; for there is no ſtretch or elaſticity in Florentine; therefore you have no dependence but an exactitude of the precepts propoſed to facilitate your practice of certainty.

Pleaſe to obſerve that you muſt hollow for the turning in of the ſeams. All ſilk muſt be ſewed in this manner to prevent ravelling on the edges. Then turn in the knee under the facing of glazed linen, the ſame in the fall down and the tops of the Pockets, commonly called the frog-mouth, and face with any thing black. When you are ready for your holes, lay a ſingle bar of ſilk round them and ſew to the Breeches, and gum them on the inſide till they are ſtiff, which will enable you to cut all your holes at one time without the leaſt fear of ravelling.

ravelling. If you have pieces in your waiſt-band, back ſtitch them firſt and afterwards ſtitch them down to the canvaſs; and further obſerve, when you put your waiſtband in, be ſure you pitch them longer before than behind, ſo that your waiſtband from the hip to the front may be the greater half. This will cauſe your fall down to ſit clear, for an error in this place will much incommode the ſitting of the Breeches as much as bad Cutting. Alſo take care your men do not follow their uſual practice of putting in the waiſtband what they call half and half. All Silk Breeches muſt be made very forward in the waiſtband three quarters of an inch before the fall down ſeam, or they will not ſit clear when buttoned.

N. B. When you put on the buttons to the fall down, ſet them on rather higher by half an inch than the holes would ſeem to require upon the waiſtband; the buttons to the pockets the ſame. With reſpect to the buttons to the knees, let them all ſtand below the holes at the bottom, and draw in the knee ſlit, likewiſe the knee band over the cap of

the knee. Pray take care in the preſſing you do not right ſide them, as it will injure the luſtre of the Silk; and further obſerve in pitching of the pockets, that they may lay forward, not ſtraight down the thigh, but right over to the leg ſeam; put on all your ſtays, ſew your ſeams, and let them be baſted with great exactneſs: a matter of great conſequence to learners; and if they in this ſtate are to the meaſure, and the other maxims ſtrictly obſerved, be aſſured they will fit the Party with much nicety, and give him perfect ſatisfaction.

There are two ſorts of Men who are rather troubleſome to fit by young practitioners, either of Silk or Florentine; the one is he that is regularly fat in all parts, the other that is ſwag-bellyed, very tall and thin thighs; as the Taylor can have no reſource for the leaſt error by the ſtretch or elaſticity of the ſtuff. The latter object with the thin thighs is more intolerable than the former, but in order to fit him take the following Example.

Cut

Cut the Breeches out by the previous rule, touching the regularity of the thighs; thoſe anſwering the properties of your meaſurements, ſtrike your fall down, then your pockets, and from the places oppoſite the fork, add a gradual ſpring up to the hip; and having by your meaſure held up ſtraight from a regular line of the thigh, up to the top of the hip, you will find how much you have gained by your ſpring; and if it is not ſo much, it muſt be to the full of three inches; and in cutting your inſide, do in like manner up to the hip, and allow the fullneſs of three inches to be beared on, in ſetting to the waiſtband. Make not your ſeat ſo round as that for the fat man, for remember it is not ſo much in the ſeat (in this caſe) that the room is wanted, but round the body the place of the waiſtband. Let the leg-ſeam be very ſtraight. If the ſtuff ſhould be ribbed, let the ribs go ſtraight down the thighs, and take the ſame method of putting in taper guſſet pieces to the outſide and inſide of the hips, as is deſcribed in the manner of making Ribbed Stocking Breeches.

When

When you make Breeches of Weymouth Silk, proceed in the ſame way as is taught in the Florentine.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Theory and Practice of Kerſeymere Breeches.

THE manner of meaſuring for theſe ſort of breeches differs not from the practice of others before deſcribed, by taking the length from the hip to below the knee-cap, and longer, as may be the reſult of faſhion; then meaſure tight below the knee, and above at the knee-ſlit, and the thick part of the thigh, and round the waiſt, as before.—If you are meaſuring a tall man, remember he will take a yard and half of Kerſeymere, which muſt be marked and cut in the followig manner:

Firſt double the cloth with the wrong ſide towards you, and take care the grain of the wool lies right down the thigh. Firſt mark your pockets and fall down, and having laid your meaſure at the top, extend it to the top of the knee, and mark your knee ſtraight acroſs, and let it be rather ſhorter towards the leg ſeam, than it is at the bottom of the knee-ſlit; then mark up the thigh as your meaſure directs, with this proviſo, that you mark it half an inch leſs in the double than the meaſure, as the ſtretch of the Kerſeymere is adequate to the above leſs as obſerved.

If this maxim is not ſtrictly followed, the breeches will be moſt aſſuredly too wide, and the cuſtomer may be greatly diſappointed, ſhould things of this ſort be wanted upon an emergency; beſides misfitting cauſes doubt, and may reflect on the abilities of the Taylor on future occaſions. When you have proceeded thus far, according to the inſtructions, lay your meaſure up the thigh; be ſure to give ſtride

enough,

enough, and make them very high on the hip, and a long fall down after the following directions.

Cut it ſtraight down till you come within four inches of the bottom; then turn up gradually, till you make ſuch a ſhape as is in plate A, and let your leg-ſeam be five inches ſhorter than your ſide ſeam: this will obtain a certainty of your having given plenty of ſtride room, and take care your ſide ſeam be neat and hollow, and your leg ſeam be very ſtraight: when this is done, cut your inſide round in the ſeat, and leave no fullneſs in the waiſtband; for by cutting your ſeat round, you will provide fullneſs ſufficient. In order to ſtrike your ſeat of a proper length, lay the meaſure from the fork to the hip, and run the meaſure to the end of the ſeat; after this is done, cut your fittings, ſuch as waiſt-bands, knee-bands, aud top-bits; and in the making, let your knee-bands be beared on in the ſewing, and your tops made very true; and in putting on your waiſtbands, be ſure they are put forward

forward before the ſeam of the fall down; and when your tops are finiſhed all but buttoning, ſtretch them and pull them to their true place, and keep them ſo much upon the ſtretch, as will clearly ſit the fall down, that neatneſs and compactneſs may viſibly appear to every obſerver. Nothing has a worſe effect than too looſe a fall-down; it carries an indelicacy which decency cannot warrant.

CHAP. VIII.

Of Mill'd Kerſeymere Breeches.

THE practice of the above Breeches is ſtrictly to adhere to the meaſure, judiciouſly taken, in every reſpect as in the obſervations already made in regular buſineſs, where no advantage or dependence is to be had either from elaſticity or deduction; for whatever is repugnant to fair and exact mea-

meaſuring in theſe ſorts of materials, will only tend to bewilder the pupil, and lead him from the rectitude of his bias; and alſo take notice what ſort of ſtuff the perſon has on you are meaſuring, that you err not in the ſubſtance by turgidity of one ſort, or lightneſs or frigidity of others, that you may make a little narrower or broader than the meaſure, as circumſtances and occaſion vary.

If the ſtuff you are going to uſe is different from what the gentleman has on when you meaſure, for our learner muſt underſtand that if we are ever ſo plain in our inſtructions, there will always be room enough for him to exerciſe his own genius; this will ever be the caſe whilſt there is a difference between ſaying and doing, betwixt deſcription and execution. Obſerve in thoſe to make the leg ſeam ſtraight, and the ſide ſeams hollow; as recourſe to Plate A will plainly ſhew even by inſpection.

I need

I need not enter into a diſquiſition of any ſort of Cloth Breeches, for you may proceed by the above example of mill'd Kerſeymere in every reſpect; for it is of no uſe to make puerile or common obſervations when we have matters of more ſerious conſideration to treat of.

CHAP. IX.

Of Imboſt Kerſeymere Breeches.

THE ſame mode of proceeding in taking the length and widths as reported on former occaſions will anſwer in every reſpect for theſe—only obſerve in the cutting that you have recourſe to the ſame method of particularly providing for the ſtripes or ribs running ſtraight down the thighs as before mentioned, and may be ſeen by turning to Plate A of breeches, which will plainly ſhew the advantage of cutting the ſtuff, and the proper meaſures to be purſued, by ſtrictly adher-

adhering to the length and widths, neither adding nor diminiſhing, only in the cutting let them be half an inch leſs in the double than the meaſure; leave no fullneſs in the waiſtband, but in cutting both the out and inſide put in the guſſet or ſplicing bit as before directed; cut your inſide round in the ſeat; let your leg ſeam be cut ſtraight as poſſible, and your ſide ſeam alſo as the ſtripes, and take care your waiſtband is kept very forward; and as for the practice of making them, there will need no farther comment than wiſhing you to have recourſe to obſervations made in former chapters.

CHAP. X.

Of Weymouth Sattin Breeches.

THE beautiful texture of this very elegant appurtenance, ſo faſhionably appropriated for Breeches, ſhould be handled with

with great delicacy, and never be uſed but upon the moſt captivating figures, where grace is adorned with ſymmetry, and manly dignity gives an additional luſtre to the brilliancy in the choice of materials. The theory and practice of thoſe ſort of Breeches are exactly the ſame as is obſerved for the florentine; therefore it may be neceſſary for the learner to make himſelf acquainted fully with thoſe inſtructions, both as to meaſure, the turning in the ſeams, and every other maxim thereunto ſubſcribed; and with reſpect to the ſtripes or ribs, make uſe of the ſame rule as is directed in the imboſt Kerſeymere, touching the ſplicing of the guſſet pieces to the hips, to command a ſtraightneſs in the ſtripes running down the thighs;—this properly done will confer a ſmile of approbation from your employer, which will enhance the ſatisfaction in your own breaſt more pleaſing than the gratification of prompt payment without ſcruple.

CHAP. XI.

Of plain and ſtriped Shag Breeches.

THE many ſeaſonable advantages reſulting to the wearer of Shag Breeches, from its excellent qualities touching both neatneſs, cleanlineſs, and durability, aſtoniſhes us much that the wearing of it is not more in faſhion, as it poſſeſſes every convenience that could excite a preference to the purchaſer or wearer; indeed there may be ſome objections to it from the barbarous practice in uſe, for we really think the Trade are more uncouth and farther from proficiency in this appendage of dreſs than any thing we meet in the ſtreets; this may be a great deal owing to its diſuſe, not being often enough upon the ſcale of practice to ſecure a proper attention; for in the making of Breeches of ſhag, conſiſtency ſeems

to

to have entirely bid adieu to the lively imagination and reaſon of the Trade. Nothing ever was ſo erroneous as the practice in uſe.

In order to cut them well, firſt having taken your meaſures as in former examples, and the materials before you, take great care how you cut exactly to compaſs your meaſure, for remember that the Breeches in every part muſt be juſtly cut to it, after they are ſewed together, this will convince you of the neceſſity of cutting them half an inch larger, to procure a natural eaſe to the wearer. Be ſure you do not loſe the ſight of the drawing in Plate A, which by inſpection will poſſeſs you with a clear idea of the mode and ſhape they ſhould have to prove the effect, which will be conſpicuous to every beholder. Make your leg ſeam ſtraight, and when you cut your inſide let it run the ſame way as the out, and avoid that egregious method of making the inſide run up, and the outſide down, which from the glow of reflection ſeems as if the ſhag was of two colours,

an error too common and frequently done by people of reſpectability in the Trade; mind you leave two inches and a half fullneſs to be beared upon the waiſtbands; and in the making, baſte on privately or ſew a piece of canvaſs two inches broad down the fall down and leg ſeam of the outſides; alſo canvaſs your ſlits well, then baſte or rather privatley ſew down the inſides, canvaſs both ſides of the ſeat and both leg ſeams, and be a little particular in baſting them together, that the ſeams may be true; and keep your left hand thumb and finger ſtraight down, ſo as to pinch the ſeam of the two ſides cloſe together with care, what the trade call driving; theſe things ſtrictly adhered to, you will find your practice perfect. Obſerve that Shag Breeches muſt always have leather linings, for by the ſharp friction of the hair with other materials, would ſoon rub through, and would always want mending. Take care in lining the waiſtband that the leather turns over the tops three quarters of an inch (to prevent injury to the ſhirts by friction.)

Note.

Note. That ſtriped Shag Breeches muſt be cut by the ſame rule of all other ſtriped work, with reſpect to managing the ſtripes to run ſtraight down the thigh; and in the ſame manner as the above directions touching the cutting and making in every reſpect.

CHAP. XII.

Of the Method of Cutting and Making of Velveteen Breeches.

VELVETEEN is a moſt ſerviceable and valuable commodity, as can be ſubſtituted for winter wear; there is a richneſs in the look of it, added to its great utility, that will always give a diſtinguiſhing preference to the choice of thoſe who wiſh to unite ſtrength, beauty, and convenience together.

The manner of meaſuring and cutting theſe are the ſame as the Shag, only in

the making up, take notice that you have no occaſion to canvaſs more than one ſide of the ſeams. If you are working upon Velveteen for a groom or coachman, take care you give them an abundance of ſtride, and cut them below the knee, even to the ſpringing of the calf of the leg; and inſtead of hollowing the ham, be ſure to make it ſtraight, to prevent a common error too much practiſed.

CHAP. XIII.

Of Corderoy and Thickſet Breeches.

BOTH theſe articles, though of different manufactures, are notwithſtanding of the ſame materials, and to thoſe who make a choice of the wearing, are ſure to be ſatisfied with them in point of duration; for though they are inferior to Hair Shag, yet they are almoſt equal to Velveteen, being as uſeful

for riding, as they are for common wear in gentlemen's undreſs, and ſerviceable in both; and when well cut and made, are likewiſe very neat, and deſerve a very ſtrong recommendation from all Taylors, when their opinions are aſked.

☞ The manner of cutting and making Corderoy or Thickſet Breeches, are the ſame as thoſe ſpoken of above for the Velveteen.

CHAP XIV.

How to make Buff Kerſeymere Breeches to fit like Leather.

FIRST when you have meaſured the perſon after the given directions, cut them half an inch leſs than the meaſure as before obſerved in the other Kerſeymere Breeches; the kneebands muſt be proportionably larger, even to the extent of the full width taken. With reſpect to other maxims requiſite for

the execution of theſe meterials, we ſhall refer our readers to the rudiments aſcertained in the chapter of Kerſeymere before mentioned. We cannot paſs over this chapter without taking ſome little notice of the neatneſs of Kerſeymere when appropriated to the above purpoſe; Breeches of this ſtuff carry with them a delicate ſnugneſs, and in our opinion have a diſtinguiſhing preference to leather, both for lightneſs and eaſe. It is true that leather is more durable; but then the former holds their rank as to eaſe and convenience, and will waſh like a ſhirt. This gives them a public notoriety, and much enhances their eſtimation to every gentleman who prefers their eaſy elaſticity to the buckram confinement of any ſort of Leather.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

Of Nankeen Breeches.

NEXT to Kerſeymere, we think that Nankeen for the ſummer wear are moſt agreeable; and perhaps for riding ſuperior to any thing at ſuch a ſeaſon. They are cool, eaſy, and neat; and when they are too much tinged witn the ſoil of the day, they are ſoon waſhed and made as neat and clean as when juſt brought from the hands of the Taylor.

Our practitioners muſt obſerve, that theſe ſort of Breeches muſt be made entirely to the meaſure; and in making be ſure to ſew all the ſeams with thread, for ſilk turns yellow by the waſhing. Make the button-holes of twiſt, and make all the linings looſe, only faſtened to the waiſtband. We would alſo adviſe

viſe the putting of a ſtrip of Iriſh linen from leg ſeam to button-hole, to prevent the thinneſs of the ſtuff burſting acroſs the knee. Mind that the ſtrip of linen be narrower than the width; this will much ſtrengthen and contract their tendency to laceration or tearing.

CHAP. XVI.

Of Worſted Stuffs of all kinds for Breeches.

ALL worſted ſtuffs muſt be cut conſiderably eaſier than the meaſure, owing to the neceſſity there is of turning ſo much in for the ſeams. The ſizes muſt exceed the meaſure by half an inch in the double. As we have ſaid ſo much in former chapters relative to the laying on the meaſure, cutting, and other maxims of making, we think it needleſs to ſay more, for we are fearful the work will ſwell beyond our intend-

ed

ed limits and expectation when we look forward to the matter we have in contemplation to treat of——With this particular obſervation that all the waiſtbands come forward beyond the ſeam, except where we have ſaid to the contrary.

With reſpect to ſtriped worſted Breeches the ſame rule for making the ſtripe run ſtraight will ſerve in all caſes, by having reſource to the firſt maxim ſhewn in worſted knit ribbed Breeches.

SECTION

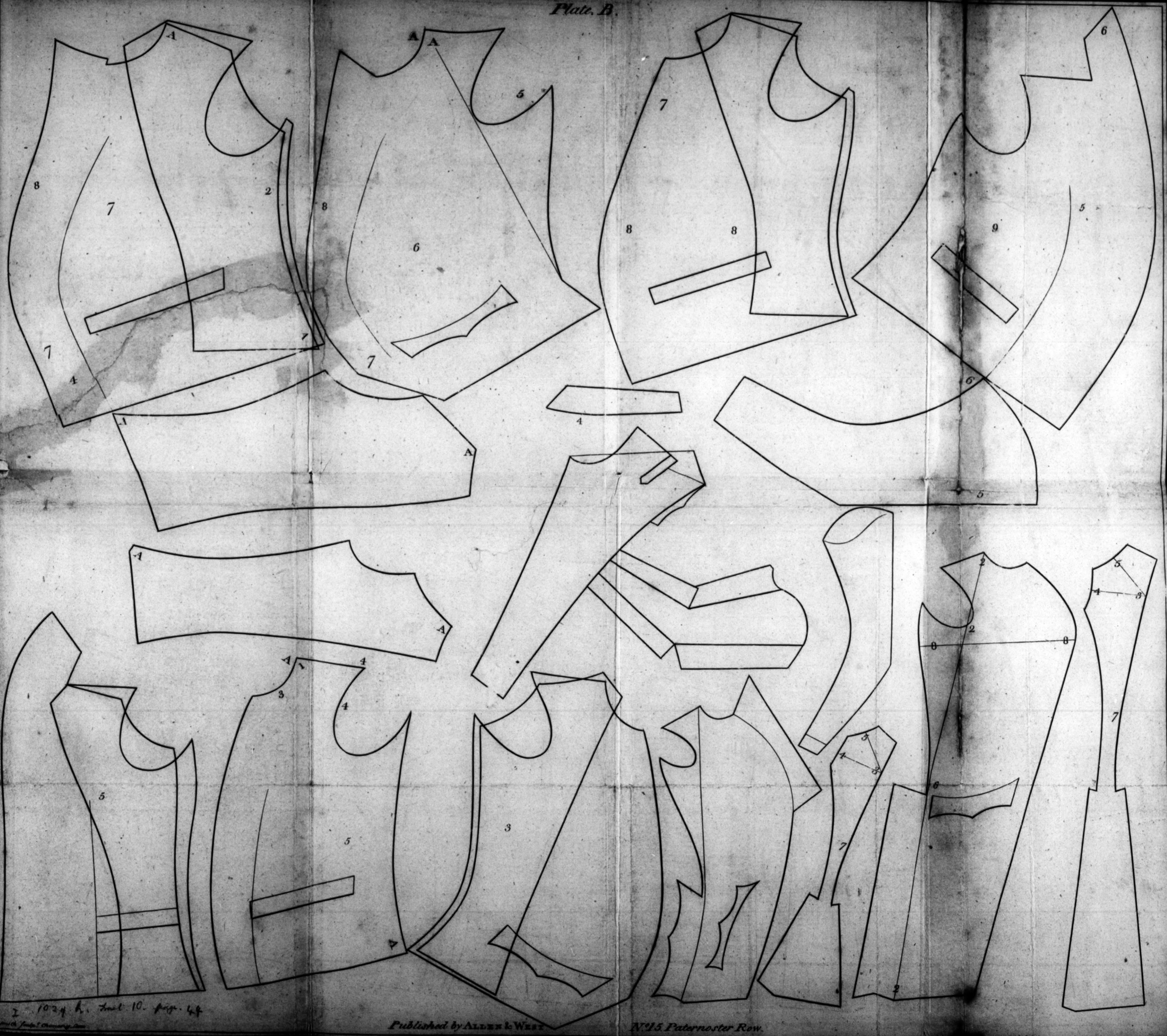
SECTION II.

CHAP. I.

Upon the Theory and Practice of Waiſtcoats.

WE ſhall now draw our Student's attention from the diſſertations we have made upon that delicate appurtenance of dreſs called Breeches, and purſue our further intent of defining the beſt and moſt ſalutary method of meaſuring, cutting, and making of Waiſtcoats; to facilitate that part of the buſineſs with eaſe and perſpicuity, and thereby avoid all futile undigeſted maxims too common among the Taylors, and point out a brief criterion in order to accommodate the matter to the moſt unenlightened perſon of the Trade, ——that no difficulty may hereafter impede the application of all thoſe who may wiſh to inform

Plate. B.



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inform themſelves of every requiſite neceſſary to compaſs the theme in queſtion.

We doubt not but many great men of the trade, who by profuſion of buſineſs and exceſſive practice have well lined their coffers, and who may congratulate themſelves on the certainty that ſucceſs carries with it a proof of real abilities above the ſubordinate rank of any inſtructions, who may ſmile at the idea of our dictating or perſcribing rules for making of waiſtcoats,—accounting ſuch flights of fancy as the puerile reſult of folly and childhood.

Notwithſtanding we ſhall take the liberty of endeavouring to meliorate the pride of ſuch wiſeacres, by deſiring them to ſuſpend their unwarrantable concluſions till they have had a little recourſe to the annexed Plate of Waiſtcoats. Perhaps a ſlight inſpection there may furniſh them with a few ſeaſonable hints, which by comparing with the deſcription and other profound maxims of well experienced practice, may be found worth a few hours

reflection,

reflection, ſuch as may fully compenſate their fatigue and labour.

Although they may be pleaſed to ſay they well knew the methods before, long before they read the obſervations hereunto ſubſcribed; this we give them free liberty to ſay—ſuch oſtenſiblity will never depreciate the ſalutary effects that may reſult from them to the uninformed, whoſe benefits we chiefly eſpouſe, and whoſe patrons we declare ourſelves to be. As for thoſe very conſequential adepts (though not leſs their friends) we ſhall only beg leave to remind them of a divine obſervation—— that thoſe that are whole need no Phyſician.

We write for the general good, and are conſcious of meeting ſucceſs in the minds and ſentiments of the truly liberal; and doubt not that thouſands now living (who are humble in their pretenſions) will rejoice at the opportunity of having ſuch an eaſy acceſs to the ſecret purlieus of the buſineſs, which neither time nor application could accompliſh to their

certainty

certainty and ſatisfaction.——The envious aſſeverations of rancarous diſappointed Men are beneath the notice of true and genuine criticiſm.

Candour is the ſource of true genius, and will never diſparage the fruitful efforts of any art; whatever is contrary to this is generally directed by ſpleen and ſcurrility, and has nothing to ſupport it but envy and malice. Such ill-nature we deſpiſe, being too trivial for ſerious conſideration as mean as calumny itſelf, the ſource and offspring of ſpite and ignorance. Having ſaid ſo much, we will proceed to the manner of meaſuring the Waiſtcoats.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Of the Practice of Meaſuring and Cutting out Waiſtcoats:

FIRST having the Perſon before you, lay on at the top of the ſhoulders and down as low before as the employer may wiſh to hove the waiſtcoat. When this is done, put your meaſure round the body, in three ſeparate places, as over the breaſt, the belly and hip. This will be all that is neceſſary touching the meaſurement.

When you have your materials before you intending to cut out, pleaſe before you begin to open the book to the plate B of Waiſtcoats, and obſerve well the figures, the modes, maxims, and turnings of the different parts to facilitate the idea and appearance that thoſe ſeparations

rations of things muſt bear before they are ſewed or united together. This will greatly aſſiſt your notion when you lay on your meaſure to mark out for cutting your cloth upon the true ſcale; and pleaſe to mind that it does not appear too round down before in the fore parts, and ſee that your neck is cut hollow, and at the gorget, ſpring it forward as the plate directs, upon which depends the chief art of fitting a waiſtcoat. Keep it very forward to lay cloſe to the neck, or it will fall away from it; a moſt egregious error if not guarded againſt as above pointed out.

There is another matter which requires thought, and that is, in the length of the back to the fore part from mark *a*, in the front, to mark *a*, on the back. Obſerve that the back muſt be the ſame length, as the plate directs; and let the back lay on the fore parts ſtraight and eaſy, and what you call cloſing the back to the fore part, take care that it anſwers the ſame, which will to-

tally prevent the fore parts from driving up on the belly, which is a general complaint, moſtly cauſed by the back being cut too ſhort, and the fore parts too round; both moſt flagrant errors, and ſhould, to enſure ſucceſs, be moſt ſtrenuouſly guarded againſt: in order to do this properly, pay ſtrict adherence to the delineations of the plates; theſe poſſeſs all the faculties requiſite for compleat fitting, proved and certified by real experience as incontrovertible as demonſtration itſelf. Therefore, the learner cannot pay too great a reſpect to the ſhape and manner of thoſe ſketches of drawings, to ripen and foſter his faint ideas,

CHAP.

CHAP III.

Of Silk Waiſtcoats.

WHEN you are about making of Silk Waiſtcoats, remember the maxim of gumming the holes as obſerved in the ſilk Breeches, to ſtick and hold them together, by which adheſion you make and work your holes, without danger; and be pleaſed to make uſe of glazed linen, inſtead of buckram for the button-holes.

CHAP. IV.

Of Round Collared Waiſtcoats.

THERE is nothing very particular in the execution of this Waiſtcoat more than the common obſervation of ſeeing that your back is a right length for the fore part, and your cape cut as the plate directs you in plate B. Should you have a ſhort ſcale of materials, as the common quantity made uſe of for other Waiſtcoats will be too ſmall for broad breaſt and round collars; therefore in order to aſſiſt our learner, we will requeſt him to cut a true ſhape of the fore part of the lining: firſt this will enable him to make the beſt of his outſide, and for the length of the back have recourſe to plate B, and draw your inference from that ſimilitude.

Rela-

Relative to the making of double-breaſted Waiſtcoats, we ſhould recommend the making holes down both ſides for the advantage of the wearer, leſt any unforeſeen accident ſhould happen from dirt, and the wearer's day's pleaſure ſhould be ſpoiled, by not having an opportunity of changing the other ſide of the breaſt. Set on the buttons by the mark upon the plate B, by the welt of the pocket up to fig. 5; and obſerve that your pocket welt runs the right way of the ſtuff, and not as the ſale waiſtcoats moſtly do. Take care in the cutting one of thoſe waiſtcoats, that you proceed as for one that is lappelled; that you have ſufficient room in the breaſt, nor cut the arm-holes too deep on the breaſt, but keep them cloſe and ſmall.

'Tis a great error to cut any garment too narrow at the breaſt. This is the leading incitement to eaſe, and the place that requires moſt freedom, an obſervation that cannot be too ſtrictly adhered to.

In cutting of the cape to be added to the place of the lappell, ſee that it falls down regular and eaſy to the ſhoulder, for the leaſt error committed here, will incommode the fitting of the waiſtcoat. Pleaſe to inſpect the plates well we have before been ſpeaking of, and all the reſt; as we further treat of them as true ſimilitudes of each theme we mean to define.

CHAP. V.

Of PLATE B.

THIS plate requires ſome conſideration, for though it is the general ſize of moſt in wear, it has difficulties in the formation; therefore our ſtudent cannot too cloſely adhere to the plate. Be particularly careful in making the lappell ſit neat, and that the collar ſits ſnug round the neck, and be aſſured of both the length of front and back

parts; obſerve the neck cut in the plate, it being a particular point, and turn it out as at fig. *a* in plate B to the neck, and make the back to anſwer the ſame. By being thus done, when the neck is made up, we pronounce it will fit cloſe all round. That your back may be as long as your fore part, cut the collar as at Fig. 4, in the Plate. This will aſſuredly anſwer the purpoſe, and fit peculiarly neat and ſmart. Be careful never to cut a ſtraight collar to any Waiſtcoat, for this method will never anſwer any purpoſe; but be a chief inſtrument of fruſtrating the well deſigned cutting and fitting of the whole Waiſtcoat.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Waiſtcoats in Plate B.

FIGURE 5, is a ſingle-breaſted Waiſtcoat, and muſt not be cut too round before, nor muſt the ſhoulder fall too far back, but be cut as ſtraight as poſſible, only allowing a proper round for the breaſt and belly. Be careful that the ſhoulder is kept inclining to the neck, in manner from Fig. 1, to Fig. 3; and let it be cut hollow with a gradual ſweep to Fig. 1, and turn that point to the neck, and let the back be the ſame length as the fore part from Fig. *a* in ditto: this will compel the ſitting cloſe and ſtraight.

The great difficulty in cutting ſingle-breaſted Waiſtcoats reſults from an error in not cutting them ſtraight in the ſhoulder; for if you pitch the ſhoulder too far backward when

when you cut it, the effect will be diſagreeable, for when it is opened and unbuttoned, it will fall away from the body; when buttoned it will be all in puckers before, and of courſe fall away from the neck behind.

While we are upon this ſubject, if we might not be thought to digreſs, we would mention a few hints towards rectifying any faults made in Waiſtcoats by inexperience, as before mentioned.——Firſt, part the back from the fore part, and when laid on your cutting-board, piece in the neck as uſual, of two or three inches at the gorget ſhoulder ſeam, and taper it to a point in the middle of the neck, and piece under the arm at the top of the ſide ſeam another piece, to prevent the arm-hole being too large; and you muſt cut off at the ſhoulder as much as you piece at the neck; we mean down from Fig. 4, to Fig. 4 in Plate B. Then take your back and piece it to the length of the fore parts, as the Plate will ſhew, and cloſe it again true to your meaſure. This done, cut your collar after the manner of Fig. 4,

in

in Plate B. and when the ſeparated parts are properly adjuſted, you will find the Waiſtcoat fit adequate to your moſt ſanguine expectation.

This is the proper method for rectifying errors in thin men's Waiſtcoats, when cut too round. For fat men we muſt purſue other maxims, which will be ſhewn hereafter.

CHAP. VII.

Of Fig. D. in Plate B.

THOUGH the mode of this cut of a Waiſtcoat be not much in practice at preſent, we doubt not but a turn of things from the fluctuating rage will ſhortly have a change, and that faſhion in her mutability may as likely ſuggeſt Waiſtcoats with flaps or any thing elſe more ridiculous, as they have been worn with much

eclat

eclat for a long ſeries of years. The taſte of faſhion is ſo capricious in all her meanders, that it is hard to ſay what ſhe will or what ſhe may not eſpouſe. We have nothing to do but humbly to watch her motions, and try the effect they may have upon the faſcinated million; ſhe is factitious in all her movements, unſtable as the wind; and having ſet our fancies a-gog, ſhe leads us by her power through the whole field of variety; upon which account we think it a duty incumbent upon us for the benefit of our country friends, and thoſe who have occaſion to make Livery Waiſtcoats, who moſtly retain the former mode of wearing flaps to them, to give a ſketch of the fore parts in our Plate as at Fig. D. in Plate B.

There is nothing to be ſaid of the cutting or making more than we have ſuggeſted in the ſingle-breaſted Waiſtcoat of not being cut too round before, nor muſt the ſhoulders fall too back, but be cut as ſtraight as poſſible, only allowing a proper round for the breaſt or belly. Be very careful that the ſhoulder is kept inclining

clining to the neck in manner from *a* to *a*, in Plate B. and let it be cut hollow with a gradual ſweep, and turn that point to the neck; and let the back be the ſame length as the fore part, as the Plate directs. This will compel the ſitting cloſe and ſtraight.

CHAP. VIII.

Of Waiſtcoats with Sleeves.

THOUGH Waiſtcoats of this ſort are not much worn but by oſtlers, poſtillions, grooms, and old men, yet they are a particular kind of practice, and requires much care in the formation; for we uſually ſee as much defect in thoſe waiſtcoats as in any part of the buſineſs; therefore that our learner may avoid error in this matter, we hope he will pay great reſpect to the following method of meaſuring, cutting, and making, as the only means of accompliſhing this arduous taſk.

'Tis true that the Trade do get through this buſineſs with the uſe of arm-puffs, puckered redundancies, conſtricted tightneſs in the ſhoulders, and other diſagreeable defects; but thoſe things are far ſhort of that maſtery that is requiſite to give a perſon countenance that he may do his buſineſs with pleaſure, well knowing that his practice will afford him praiſe, and give his employer great ſatisfaction.

To meaſure for a Waiſtcoat with ſleeves, firſt, lay your meaſure from the top of the ſhoulder before, down as low as the party may chooſe to have it; for remember that in all things your employer will always have a pre-eminence of choice, though after you have received that, you can always exerciſe your own judgment by aſſimilating propriety with their requeſts.

Secondly, meaſure from the top of the back down to the bottom behind, then you will acquire a certainty as to your length.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, meaſure from the back ſeam behind half acroſs the ſhoulder, and nick your meaſure for one half of the back; and in meaſuring for the length of the ſleeve, take care the party holds up the elbow level with the ſhoulder, and at the elbow joint make a nick, and extend the meaſure as near the hand as your cuſtomer may wiſh for the length of the arm, and mark it; then meaſure the arm round at the wriſt, under the elbow, and as near the ſhoulder as you can; afterwards meaſure the breaſt half acroſs, and three times round the body; at the breaſt as high as you can, at the centre of the body, and at the hip; be certain of your marks and meaſures.

When you cut out your waiſtcoat, conſider well the ſtuff you are about to make it of, and do not loſe ſight of the inſtructions already given touching the nature of the materials, of their elaſticity, or other more certain qualities; alſo if the waiſtcoat is for a perſon in any buſineſs where great exerciſe is required. Conſider well the intent, and give a little latitude to the neceſſity of eaſe required in ſuch caſes; for, though

though we give you exact rules how to proceed, there will always be room enough to exerciſe your own abilities. If the waiſtcoat is of fuſtian, cut it acroſs the ſhoulders half an inch larger than the meaſure on both ſides of the back, in order that it may be one inch broader acroſs the ſhoulders, and let your back be cut longer than the meaſure by two inches; and have a ſtrict eye upon the Plate B. Fig. 5. Cut your fore parts after the manner of the Plate, and in cutting the fore parts, have recourſe to your back, and ſee it anſwers as before. Let your fore part run cloſe up under the arm, for that will give great room to the ſleeves, and eradicate puffs. Obſerve well the ſleeve, Fig. 5. in Plate B. for in this there is a difference, whoſe principal effect chiefly reſults from the point at Fig. 6. Give plenty of ſleeve top, and ſpring it out to the fore ſeam to appear as the plate at the top; for remember the farther you ſpring your fore ſeam out at the top, the more room you give for the extenſion of the arm.

By

By this maxim you procure freedom and eaſe to the wearer, without the leaſt reſtraint or confinement whatſoever. This is the general fault ſo frequently complained of, and which on no conſideration ſhould be omitted to rectify ſo groſs an abuſe by every practiſer of the art.

CHAP. IX.

Of a Waiſtcoat for a fat Man.

THE great protuberance of body in fat men requires care in the application, and it would be well for all men of little practice to digeſt the methods we propoſe; for the difficulty ariſing from irregular figures, ſhould excite attention in the workman, that he may be well informed the maxims will anſwer the intent, and that by ſuch circumſtances ſuch means are duly required to produce their natural effect; when he has attained a thorough

knowledge of this practice, he will be adequate to the undertaking; for in thoſe, as well as in regular buſineſs and well formed figures of men, the practice will be coincident with the Theory.

The moſt difficulty in fitting a fat man is in a ſingle-breaſted Waiſtcoat. The great prominency of Belly cauſes ſo much more width in the round than in the breaſt, or the hips, that you will find a ſcrupulous difficulty in the regular falling to the breaſt, as well as the great nicety of continually hiding the linen between the waiſtband of the Breeches, and bottom of the waiſtcoat, owing to the improvident riſing of the waiſtcoat upon the Belly; a very indelicate error, and ſhould be guarded againſt with all your judgment.———Obſerve in taking the meaſure round the Belly that it is put level round, for as you lay your meaſure upon the cloth ſtraight acroſs, that either riſing or falling your hand, will cauſe an addition to the width, and upon the breaſt meaſure the party as high as you can under the arms, then the

Belly and at the hip, which muſt be provided for accordingly.

Nothing can be ſo egregiouſly ſhameful as the riſing of the waiſtcoat upon the Belly for want of properly fitting the Body; this we muſt own has been a great inducement to our undertaking this treatiſe, to remedy this as well as other abominable errors, to the ſcandal of the trade, which ſhews nothing but inattention and poverty of genius.

Obſerve when you take the length it will be neceſſary to lay on the meaſure twice, firſt from the ſhoulder to the hollow of the breaſt; and mark the meaſure, then down to the bottom of the waiſtcoat.———Afterwards take a meaſure all down the buttoning as low as the intended length required; and to the learner it may not be an unreaſonable requeſt of us to deſire him to meaſure the length of the back, though this may not be the cuſtom of the trade. We adviſe it, as fat men are ſo ſhort behind and ſo very long before; it will be a means of giving a better idea of the ſize of the body,

body, and form a proper ſimilitude of the ſhape of the waiſtcoat to fit the object.

In order to facilitate this piece of practice to the mind of our ſtudents, we would adviſe them firſt to have recourſe to the plate B. of the ſhape of fat men's Waiſtcoats, and then take great notice of the ſhape and formation, eſpecially at No. 4 in plate B. that when you cut out you may fall gradually from the protuberance of the belly to the breaſt; and likewiſe follow ſtrictly the maxims of the plate in every other particular; for be aſſured the rules laid down are not the premiſes of uncertain ſpeculation, but juſtified by axioms of well earned experience.

Take care of the ſide ſeam at No. 2 in Fig. B that it be cut ſhort enough for the hind part, in proportion to the extraneous length of the fore part. Some attention is requiſite alſo to its fitting well about the neck, to prevent its falling away towards the ſhoulders; a thing very common in fat men. Even ſo ridiculous are ſome made, that you may ſee their

linen half way to the ſhoulder point; nay ſo great is the abuſe, that even the buttoning of the coat will hardly hide the notorious fault; however in order to prevent this exceſſive blunder in future, ſtick cloſe to the following Leſſon.

Cut your neck as at No. *a* in Fig. B inclining to No. *a*, for being cut forward in that place is a great inducement to fitting well. It is a moſt flagrant error to let the ſhoulders fall too much back. Likewiſe in cutting the fore part be ſure to leave it a great height under the arm, as at No. 5 Fig. B. Your next remark is upon the back and collar; obſerve that the back is cut full in length from No. *a* to No. *a* in Fig. 7 in plate B, anſwerable to the fore part; for notwithſtanding the ſhortneſs of a fat man's back, they muſt be made to aſſimilate in the length. Cut your collar round at the bottom, as in the plate at Fig. 4, and ſtraight at the top. With reſpect to the height at the neck, you muſt be ruled by the wiſh of your cuſtomer. Place your pockets pretty high; and in the making of the

waiſtcoat, after being cut with great nicety, draw it in very much over the belly, and likewiſe draw it in for the breaſt in the hollow part.

Note. If the waiſtcoat ſhould be of florentine, or any kind of ſilk or ſtuff that will ravel at the edges, when you make your holes wet and rub a piece of gum at the places where you have cut your holes; this will contract and keep your ſtuff from ravelling when dry, and you may work your holes without difficulty; and be ſure for this kind of ſtuff to uſe no buckram for the holes or edges, as this will wear the ſtuff. If you ſtrictly adhere to thoſe rules you will certainly accompliſh the buſineſs to your own and employer's ſatisfaction.

CHAP. X.

Of Fig. B. in Plate B. for Fat Men.

OUR Learners will obſerve the very particular attention that is requiſite in all fat men's Waiſtcoats, as well as in any other appendage of dreſs, in order to prevent the too common practice of fitting bodies ſo irregular and prepoſterous; for though things may be well conceived, and neatly executed, they will not always have that ſtriking effect as clothes upon more tenuous figures, or men of genteel addreſs. There is a certain ponderoſity in heavy men, that when moving diſorders the very œconomy and appearance of nice cutting; therefore in order to guard againſt this as much as poſſible, take the following directions:

To

To meaſure firſt from the ſhoulder to the hollow of the breaſt, and mark the meaſure, and then to the bottom of the Waiſtcoat; next meaſure all down the middle from the neck to the intended length before, and meaſure the length of the back (though not a common practice) for by this you will fully conceive the ſhortneſs of the back, and be enabled better to adjuſt it to the front or fore part.

In meaſuring round firſt at the breaſt as near under the arms as poſſible, then at the belly, put your meaſure exactly level round, for either holding up or down your hands will increaſe the length, which will deceive you when you lay your meaſure acroſs the cloth.

Laſtly meaſure below the belly at the hips. This will be all that is neceſſary to meaſuring, but before you begin to cut, have recourſe to Plate B and Fig. 3. in ditto; and when you have digeſted well this figure, aſſimilate the full force of this ſhape to the ſcale and meaſurement you have taken. Let this be the

prototype or living pattern in your mind, bearing it ſtrongly in remembrance to cut the point at No. 3. in Fig. B. with inclining forwardneſs; for ſhould it lean off in this part, it will lie off the neck behind and draw it moſt diſagreeably. This is a maxim that cannot be diſpenſed with; for this, and cutting the collar, and noting the fall of the belly to the breaſt, are all matters of ſerious conſideration, and ſhould chiefly influence the Taylor's care to provide againſt them. Nothing gives a gentleman a more diſagreeable ſenſe of defection than an untowardly fitting about the neck; and this is a part where moſt errors are committed. Therefore, we muſt once more beg our ſtudents to be circumſpect, and alſo aſſimilate his collar to the drawing of Fig. 4; and obſerve that the back of the Waiſtcoat muſt have its proportion of length from No. *a* to No. *a*, as in Fig. B. for however ſhort the back, they muſt be made to anſwer in thoſe parts. And pleaſe to obſerve too, that in cuttiug the fore part, you leave it high enough under the arm as at No. 5. in figure B. In making up the Waiſtcoat, draw

it

it in from No. 7 to No. 8, upon the breaſt and belly; the greater length in this place than at the buttons requires it. If the Waiſtcoat is ſtriped, let your welt run with the ſtripe of the ſtuff; in order to make thoſe Waiſtcoats fit well, we are obliged to have recourſe to the method of drawing in to make it ſit cloſe to the lower part of the belly. Should you draw it into a pucker, take a hot iron, and by preſſing it a little you will compel it to ſit cloſe and ſnug.

Obſerve in cloſing one of thoſe kind of Waiſtcoats, lay your meaſure near half way between the edge of the fore part and the buttons; for ſhould you follow the Trade method of half and half, you will too much tighten and narrow it; therefore in this caſe you muſt eaſe it a little in the meaſure, for irregular figures require irregular means to effect them. With regard to the flap of the pocket, a ſingle view of the Plate will give an idea how to cut it agreeable to the faſhion that conſtitutes it. The taſte of the times in this article, as well as the cut of the ſkirts, will be always a guide to his

genius,

genius, and prompt him to a modeſt neatneſs, which will give a pleaſing turn to the whole.

CHAP. XI.

Of Figure C. in Plate B. for a Fat Man.

THIS Figure deſcribes a round collared Waiſtcoat, a thing that has been the rage ſome time, and may continue a few years by ſome people, but I think cannot be of laſting duration; the idea was borrowed from the great coats that were made in this manner touching the collar about ſixteen or ſeventeen years ago, but there was an inconvenience attended them, which ſhortened their duration. The Waiſtcoats of this faſhion in our opinion are full as reprehenſible as the great coats, for they are not only inelegant but otherwiſe uncouth and clumſey; and at all events ſhould be diſcouraged by fat men, for they help to throw an impediment in the very place it ſhould be moſt avoided in the neck, where

where all men of this denomination are particularly ſhort; for in ſtrict juſtice to elegance and his own appearance, a fat man ſhould wear no collar about his Coat or Waiſtcoat at all, but what ſtands up; thoſe ſeem to help to lengthen the neck, and to figures thus loaded with fleſhy ſhoulders have the beſt and moſt pleaſing effect, much better than any turn-downs or other ſubſtitutes that ſeem only to be invented to hide the tenuity of long necks; in which caſe it has its uſes, and as they have been long in vogue and have been otherwiſe ſanctioned by cuſtom, we ſhall let them ſwim down the ſtream of time till they ſicken and die unnoticed, like many other once brilliant appendages that have had their day, though now no more till time and the whim of ſome great reſearcher brings them into life and faſhion once again.

However as ſome gentlemen may chooſe to hold up its conſequence and ſave it from oblivion; we ſhall deſire our pupil to have recourſe to Fig. 9. in Plate B. which will inſpection ſhew him the very cut and ſemblance

blance of his proportion. When he has taken his proper meaſures of his cuſtomer, as from the ſhoulder to the hollow of the breaſt, and marked the meaſure, then to the bottom of the Waiſtcoat or the propoſed length, then meaſure all down the round of the middle before; afterwards meaſure the length of the back (though not common ſo to do) in order to come at an appropriate length to join the back ſeam to the fore part.

Next meaſure round the breaſt as high under the arms as you can, then round the belly very level, and laſtly, below the belly at the hips, and every other maxim as laid down in the ſingle-breaſted Waiſtcoat for a fat man in Fig. 8. in Plate B. with this further obſervation, that for a round collared Waiſtcoat take care you give a great ſpring in the cape at No. 6, in Fig. 9. Plate B. that corner muſt be ſprung as much as the fall of the ſhoulders may require, only be ſure your back and fore parts anſwer as the Plate directs from No. *a* to No. *a*. in Fig. 6. Plate B; and in cutting the fore parts be ſure to cut them high enough under

der the arm, as at No. 5. Fig. 6; and when you make it up, take care and abide by the maxim laid down of drawing it from No. 7, to No. 8. upon the belly and breaſt, the great difference of length between this place and where the buttons are ſet on requires it, in order to make them ſit cloſe to the lower part of the belly.

Reſpecting the cut of the ſkirts you will always endeavour to favour the faſhion that ſubſtitutes the manner of cutting them, as well as the mode of the flaps, in ſimilitude to Fig. 6, with a graceful ſmartneſs that may add beauty to the finiſhing of the Waiſtcoat.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

Of Plate B. and Fig. 3.

THE different figures upon this Plate ſtrongly enforce the neceſſity of every uninformed mind taking every opportunity of ſtudiouſly contemplating the points, turns, cuts, ſcys, and other appropriate matters in order to ſymbolize the Plates to the deſcriptions, and reaſons aſſigned for every cauſe and effect that is produced by the rules and maxims which they treat of, in order to ſanction the judgment where inexperience has not ripened the practice to diſcriminate the axioms that are ſo forcibly laid down. There is a kind of doubtful timidity which attends the modeſty of genius and youthful experience, which cannot be ſurmounted but by ſuch a certainty as will juſtify the proof, which certainty we have

have endeavoured in every caſe to poſſeſs them of, both by precept and example, and if ſtrictly adhered to will inevitably anſwer each peculiar purpoſe aſcertained.

In meaſuring for Fig. C. follow the ſame method as in Fig. 3. in Plate B, taking the length from the ſhoulder to the hollow of the breaſt, and mark the meaſure, and then continue the length to the bottom of the Waiſt-coat as may be required; then meaſure all down the round of the middle before, afterwards meaſure the length of the back, for the purpoſe mentioned in other Plates of fat men, as at Fig. 6. then meaſure round the breaſt high under the arms and level round the belly, then below the belly at the hips; and follow the methods preſcribed in the other Plates both as to cutting and making, which will fully anſwer the intent.

SECTION

SECTION III.

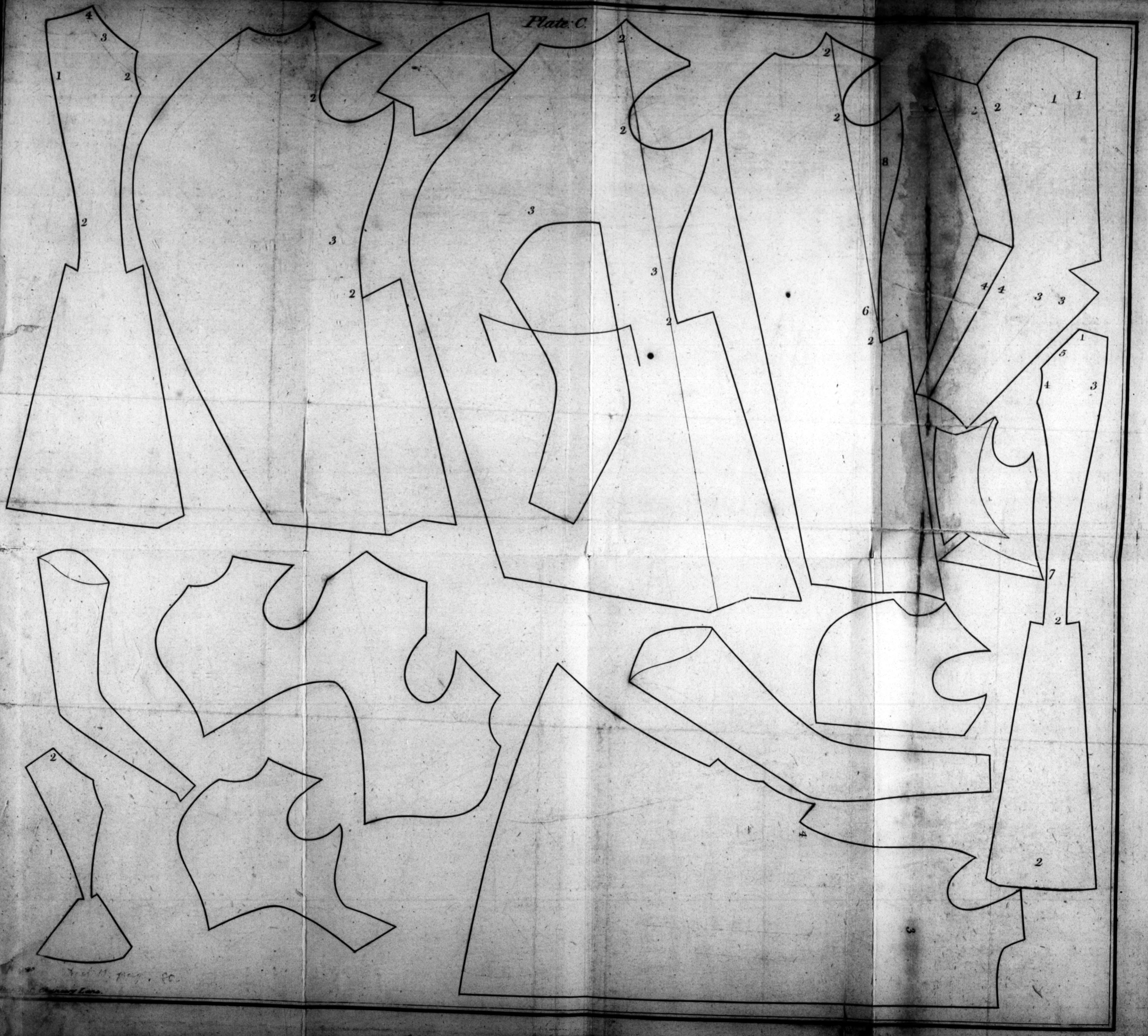
CHAP. I.

Dissertation on Coats.

HAVING run through our observations upon Breeches and Waistcoats, we hope to the full satisfaction of our students, we shall now proceed to set forth the modes and most effectual maxims for accomplishing and compleating his practice in the principal part of his business, which is in the measuring, cutting, and making a Coat. In this lays the energy of his pursuit, which when once thoroughly possessed of, he may with great satisfaction congratulate himself with the sentiment of being entirely at home.

On

Plate C.



On the maſtery of this great qualification, which has baffled the efforts of all preceding generations, ſince the revolution of crowns, and new created ſyſtems modernized our habits and dreſſes to the preſent mode. On the proficiency of this ſcientific art depends the elements of other arts; for while human nature is dependent upon dreſs for the grace and embelliſhment which it beſtows upon the well-turned features, the compleat Taylor will always hold a ſtate of pre-eminence in equipping and finiſhing the exterior of addreſs in a fine gentleman; for nothing can be more convincing, or fully illuſtrate this hypotheſis, than an obſervation of any of our plays, where the gentleman puts off his real ſeeming, by aſſuming the garb of ruſticity. This will in a great meaſure ſhew the neceſſity of cutting well, when the effect of elegance depends upon the Taylor's ſhears.

We mean not by this to infringe upon the diſtinguiſhing qualities of either the dancing or fencing-maſter; we wiſh only to illuſtrate our own particular walk, to ſhew the merit

of the art, and what attainments are requiſite to compaſs the matter, for the improvement of our ſtudents, and the general good.

By ſtrictly following the dictates of our theory, we hope we ſhall be able to give ſuch formidable reaſons as will prevent in future the neceſſity of one maſter Taylor's begging the aſſiſtance of another to cut out his clothes; this we know to be a common practice in the trade, by men who have even been in the buſineſs and habit of cutting out twenty years. What a depravity of genius, at an æra when every art is ſtriving with a vivid force for maſtery.

The Taylor, whoſe ſprightly walk in life is to give grace to drapery, ſits down upon the forlorn hope of ſtruggling through without ever enquiring farther than the maxims of his father, or what his maſter always did before him. Such poverty of genius has always inhabited the minds of Taylors, or they would never have continued ſo long in ſuch egregious errors, from father to ſon, or from

from maſter to apprentice, without applica-cation or enquiry. Like the bell-wether of a flock (if we may be allowed the expreſ-ſion) running over a ditch, and all the reſt following after.

It is a notorious truth, however ſtrange it may appear, that we have had capital maſ-ter Taylors, who at their demiſe, have left behind them wardrobes of clothes, which have been returned upon their hands by miſ-fitting, to the groſs amount of eleven or twelve hundred pounds; beſides what they may have diſpoſed of by alterations and mu-tilations to leſs figures, that have made choice of the ſame faſhion and colours.

Such circumſtances as theſe muſt ever hap-pen, while people are content to remain in the field of ignorance. To be uninformed may be the lot of many, whoſe inexperience have not furniſhed them with opportunities to compaſs the matter in queſtion. True genius is not the lot of every one; yet al-moſt every man is ſufficiently enabled by

application and perſeverance in certain rudiments, to accompliſh ſuch a knowledge in any common manufacturing buſineſs, as will clearly anſwer the practice of it.

Leave but the road of uncertainty, make one bold effort in the peaceable path of ſcience, and by diligence and modeſt progreſſive ſteps, no doubt but you will artfully reach the port propoſed, which is the hearty wiſh of the authors of theſe ſheets.

CHAP. II.

How to meaſure a thin Gentleman for a Single Breaſted Coat. Plate D, Fig. P.

PREVIOUS to our beginning this buſineſs, it may not be amiſs to warn our ſtudent of the great neceſſity there is of his being judiciouſly particular in learning from his

his cuſtomer the preciſe length he chuſes to wear his Coat, with how much of the ruling faſhion he would wiſh to imbibe, with other particulars of buttons, pockets, &c. for it is notorious that hundreds of ſuits of clothes have been returned upon the Taylor's hands by gentlemen leaving it to the Taylor's own taſte. The ideas of men are very different, eſpecially in dreſs; for what is moſt pleaſing to ſome, is diſguſting to others; therefore the ſafeſt and moſt certain mode of giving ſatisfaction is by a few queſtions touching the above purpoſes, and then proceed to meaſure.

Firſt, take the length from No. 1, at the top of the ſhoulder of the back down to the waiſt, in Plate D, Fig. 2, and then continue it to the bottom of the ſkirts for the length; then from the back ſeam, half acroſs the back from No. 3, to No. 4; next to the elbow, and down to the wriſt, for the length of the ſleeve; afterwards acroſs the arm as high as you can; then below the elbow, or as many times round

the arm as you pleaſe. Obſerve that the gentleman when you meaſure, holds his arm level with the ſhoulder, for too high would make the ſleeve too long, and too low too ſhort; then meaſure round the breaſt, as high as poſſible, next below at the belly, and alſo over at the hips; then meaſure half over the breaſt, which will be as much as we conceive neceſſary, only with this remark; when you meaſure for the length of the back, mind you nicely hit upon that mode that moſt pervades your employer's fancy; for by doing this, you will facilitate his wiſhes, which may give a pleaſing ſanction to all the reſt.

After you have taken and marked all your meaſures, be ſure you keep them diſtinct, that two alike may not claſh at one place, and by a kind of confuſion, fruſtrate your ideas. As for your manner of marking, uſe the only clear method that may ſeem moſt familiar to you; and before you leave the gentleman, ſet down his particular requeſts in your book of directions, that

that when you have cut, finiſhed, and brought the clothes home, ſhould any diſlike ariſe, you can have recourſe to your minutes taken from your cuſtomer's own mouth, which if you have juſtly followed, will hold you blameleſs. A little caution of this kind you will find prevent both anxiety and doubt, and will reflect wiſdom on your prudence, and in the end gain both credit and reſpect.

CHAP. III.

Of the Points and Maxims of Cutting and compleatly making a Coat.

AS we write for the inexperienced and uninformed, it may not be amiſs for us to define and lay down a certain rule that may be a laſting ſtandard for all ſuch as are unacquainted with the real quantity of cloth

neceſſary to make a coat: take the following method.

Meaſure by your yard the length of your Coat, as you have taken it from your meaſure, to which add the length of your ſleeve, theſe two added together will be the preciſe quantity requiſite, and no leſs will do with any propriety.

When the cloth is laid before you, do not omit having recourſe to Plate D, of the analyſis of Coats, and pay particular reſpect to the ſeparated parts, the different modes and turnings that they effect, for until theſe are made (as it were) coincident with your own ideas, the maxims we lay down, we are fearful, will only ſerve to confuſe, without anſwering the great end we wiſh to obtain by our labours. —After you have ſufficiently digeſted the plates, and your cloth being before you, mark down the back ſeam as the plate directs, and ſtrike the ſhape of the back upon the cloth, bearing the ſame ſimilitude as the ſmall ſcale upon the plate, and take care

it

it anſwers to your meaſure in every part. Take a large back hollowing, for this will make your back-ſkirts lap over well, and not part behind; as is too often the caſe to the abuſe of decency.

Be a little curious in the length of the back ſcye; ſhould you make it long, ſee that the ſhoulder ſeam lies very high, and in order to prove that, when you lay your meaſure acroſs the back from No. 3, to No. 4 on Plate D; then move the meaſure from No. 4 to No. 5, on the ſhoulder, and mark down the ſhoulder at the end of the meaſure for the ſhoulder ſeam, afterwards ſtrike the mark of the back ſcye at the end of the meaſure according to the plate, as low as you perceive it neceſſary; but be a little nice in this top of your back, and cut your back narrower at the ſhoulder acroſs, than it is at the bottom of the back ſcye.

This maxim will make your ſleeve, when all is united and put together, come up well on the ſhoulder, from which effect you will learn, that if your back is broad, your fore-

part

part muſt be broad alſo; in which caſe the ſleeves cannot come up to the place they ſhould be at, both the back and the fore part prevent it, but by cutting the back and fore part a little away and adding ſo much to the ſleeve, you may command the ſleeve ſeam at the ſhoulder top as much over the rounding of the bone as you pleaſe; but more of this hereafter.

In order to finiſh the back down from the back ſcye to the hip, ſtrike the back ſide ſeam as ſmart and neat as you can, by inſpection of the plate, and in the back ſeam be ſure you do not begin to hollow till you come to the appropriate place of No. 7 in plate 2; for ſhould you do this, you will diſorder the economy and fitting of the whole coat; for by too much hollowing the back under the ſhoulder, you will force it to kick up and hang looſe at the hip, which is a very great error. To find the true length of the waiſt, it muſt be cut from the top of the back-ſlit (or what is called tack over) longer by three inches than the ſkirts. If the faſhion ſhould create a broader mode of making of the backs at the hip than at preſent,

and

and our ſtudent ſhould not have conſidered this, till practice has availed him of the methods more prompt to his purpoſe, let him mark out his narrow back that he has been uſed to with all its leading features, and add to the ſide ſeam as much as is required;—but remember that whatever is added to the back muſt be taken from the fore part, and this will anſwer his purpoſe, and next of the fore part as at Fig. 6, in Plate 2. for on this depends the very continuity of the whole coat. Obſerve well the cut and contour of the plate, mind the prominency and round of the breaſt, for on this will depend the graceful ſeeming and elegance of the cut, which is ſo requiſite to diſplay the beauty and perfection of human nature.

To make the fore part anſwer to the back, lay the back upon the fore part, and from the ſame ſhape according to the plate down before. Extend your meaſure acroſs from No. 8 to No. 8, and laying one half of your back to the extent of your meaſure, and mark the width of the fore part at the ſide ſeam, with a proper allow-

allowance for laying in, and alſo room before for paring and making up the edge, with allowance for the projection at the end of the holes; then acroſs for the Belly and make it ſomewhat leſs in proportion to the Meaſure, as ſmartneſs and neatneſs may require, and the ſame at the hip, and mark your ſkirt agreeable to the plate, and the ſame length as the back ſkirt, then make the fore part ſkirt.

Notwithſtanding we have ſaid ſo much about the cutting, meaſuring, and making of a coat; yet we have a few moſt eſſential points further to propound to our pupil, which he will find of ſerious conſideration, and tantamount to his purpoſe, as they are the very leading features which ſymmetry has preſcribed to facilitate and harmonize the whole.

In the firſt place we muſt inform him that however eſſential every component part is to the unity of the thing intended, yet there are a few prevailing cauſes which give energy to the theme, and which cannot be diſpenſed with if the coat is deſigned to fit neat, clean and clever in every part.——Obſerve the following rule,

rule, that it is a maxim in our Theory that the top of the Coat commands the bottom; for inſtance ſhould you want to find where the ſquare muſt be marked, this muſt be done by laying your meaſure or yard, or any thing you have that is long enough, firſt at the ſhoulder point in Fig. 2 in Plate D as at No. 7, and continue it ſtraight down to the hip where it cloſes to, and carry it down the ſkirt to the bottom; and where it falls at the extreme end of the ſkirt, there you muſt mark your place for your ſquare.

When you plait up the coat you muſt mind that the fore plaits are exactly in the line from the top of the ſhoulder to the hip, and down to the bottom of the ſkirts, for your ſquare will be always in a right line from the ſhoulder and hip. Thus far we do infer the ſhoulder point always rules your ſquare, and always will, let the rage of Faſhion be ever ſo prepoſterous. Notwithſtanding any alteration of long or ſhort waiſts, narrow or broad backs, this rule is plenarily juſt and cannot be diſpenſed with for any elegant coat whatſoever.

The next great point to compleat the cutting lays in the ſymmetry of the fore-part, which is perfectly deſcribed upon the Plate B, in Fig. 2, which bears a juſt proportion, and muſt be the ſame in likelihood and ſimilitude when marked and cut upon your cloth; and be ſure you note the following maxim, that is, to lay a line from the hip to the ſhoulder point of the gorget, I mean the point at No. 2, in the plate at the ſhoulder, and at No. 2, at the ſcye arm-hole, and at the hip; and be aſſured of this, that if thoſe three leading points are not all in a direct line, that it will baffle the very hope of poſſibility ever to make the coat fit. This maxim we do affirm to be an indiſpenſible certainty, and though but little underſtood by the trade, we give it as its choiceſt criterion, and of much more value to our pupil, than any rule in the whole branch of buſineſs.

After your fore part is faſhioned after the manner we ſpeak of, and thoſe other rules ſtrictly adhered to, you muſt be careful that your back and fore part are both of a length; and

and in order to aſcertain this matter truly, lay your back and fore part together at the hip, and hold them faſt, and alſo lay hold of the corner of the back at the top of the neck at the ſhoulder ſeam, and try how high you can make it reach without ſtraining, and then ſtrike your ſhoulder acroſs for your fore part ſhoulder ſeam; and that point of the back that is the ſhoulder point, muſt fall juſt in the middle of the ſhoulder ſeam. This will ever be a judicious guide for all thin people. When the fore parts and backs are in this trim, be aſſured that the very power of diſtortion is deſtroyed, your practice being commenſurate with ſymmetry, and error is totally diveſted of its power.

Now we have taken ſo much pains to ſhew how effect is to be given to drapery, and the body graced by the influence of the cut of the fore part, we are not to eſtabliſh this as an invariable rule to ſuit the fancy of all opinions; the gravity of ſome cuſtomers would rather think this mode of cutting an imperfection, than a pleaſing maxim to be guided by; there-

therefore allowance muſt be made touching circumſtances, the age and avocations of different people: for it would be as awkward and truly laughable to ſee a hackney coachman in a Coat of this graceful cut and ſeeming, as Tom Errand in Beau Clincher's clothes, in the Trip to the Jubilee.

Clothes that would grace the firſt officer of a regiment, would be unſuitable for the back of a porter. Obſerve the requiſites of fitting the body, and you may follow the wit and ſport of faſhion to every extreme. The ornament of lappells, or other modes of making, will never impede the ſyſtem we treat of, if you do but follow the dictates of our theory; for be aſſured, that good fitting is the ornament of faſhion, and gives a moſt graceful luſtre to every thing attending it.

With reſpect to the ſleeve, we muſt ſtill urge the neceſſity of ſtrictly adhering to the cut and manner of the Plate. Take care you do not hollow your fore ſeam otherwiſe

than

than as we direct. Cut the ſleeve all down the fore ſeam, in manner of the Fig. of the ſleeve in Plate D, a little hollow from the top to the bend of the arm, very full and nearly ſtraight; and then from the hollow down to the hand, according to the ſucceſs of the figure in the Plate, full, and to fall off agreeably; this will prevent the cocking up, ſo much complained of. Though this mode of practice may differ from your own, and create a ſurprize at the novelty of the method, you may reſt aſſured it is a paradox not more ſtrange than true.

In order more fully to demonſtrate this matter to our learner, we would have him turn his thoughts upon the cut of the patent ſleeves, which are made without ſeams, either before or behind; and which are known to fit neater and much better than thoſe that are made with ſeams; and thoſe muſt be ſtraight, not in the leaſt hollowed, as reaſon muſt ſuggeſt to every ſearcher of the art. Have an eye upon the men's ſewing of the ſleeve, leſt by bad prac-

tice they ſhould prevent its fitting at the arm-holes.

Obſerve they lock in the inſide at the top four inches down, and take it in leſs than the outſide full an inch; this maxim will compel it to fit the ſcyes, and not appear too full under the arms, as is too frequently the caſe by the generality of the Trade. This has long been a moſt egregious error, and has eſcaped the obſervation of many, whoſe ſtudious application has given them great credit in this particular, as well as other brilliant efforts in many other parts of the buſineſs, to the attainment of the matter we are treating of, which has ever diſtinguiſhed them by the neatneſs of their work.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Making a Straight Frock, for either Gentleman or Groom.

OUR previous obſervations in the Coat for a thin man will anſwer every purpoſe of meaſuring for the ſubject in queſtion, with the difference of cutting in the fore part, which is properly deſcribed in Plate D, Fig. 3; here you will diſcover the effect by the ſimilitude, and by inſpection perceive how much in addition is neceſſary to the fore part to accompliſh this piece of buſineſs: there will alſo be required an additional width to the back in that place upon the hips, between the buttons, and likewiſe a little wider ſkirt for the back.

In caſes where perſons are a little long in the neck, to remedy which, add to the fore-part, *before* a full inch more than another kind of coat, that it may button over the top button with much eaſe, that no reſtraint or conſtriction may in any wiſe impede the free extention of the arm. Touching the difficulty reſulting from the flying off of the frock, we cannot be too preſſing in our requeſting moſt ſeriouſly to conſider and have recourſe to the Plate, for that will infallibly ſhew him the manner of cutting, and how the ſhoulder muſt lie.

The fore part muſt be cut as ſtraight as poſſible, and ſquare acroſs the bottom, after the manner of Fig. 3. With regard to the ſleeves, collar, &c. proceed according to our directions of a Coat for a thin man. Take notice in cutting the fore part before that you do not cut it ſhorter than behind; this is a terrible fault, and but too often expoſed to our ſight.

In order to make a frock hang ſtraight, you muſt take from the ſkirt at the bottom behind three inches to make it ſhorter behind than before; this done, it will hang ſtraight and level all round, to the ſatisfaction of the wearer.

When you clear the ſcye, you will remember that clearing it from the cloſing of the ſide ſeam, and round before, according to cuſtom, is erroneous. This we have thoroughly proved from various examples, in altering the miſtakes of inexperienced Taylors. In our theory clearing the ſcye will be unneceſſary if you adhere to the plates, and the maxims there treated of. If you cut by the rules laid down, and find an occaſion, begin at the back ſcye very nigh the ſhoulder, and clear it round the top of the ſcye to before, and not under the arm, as is the common practice.

Be careful in this point, for any irregular cutting away before, will totally diſpoſſeſs the coat of its other genuine merits; for by cut-

ting the ſcye too forward, you will force it into wrinkles under the arm. The more you wound the fore part, the larger the ſcye will be, and of courſe the fore part will fly to the fleſh; the ſleeve will force the fore part, and with the additional weight of the Coat, it is dragged to ſit cloſe at the arm-hole, to the prejudice of eaſe, and every convenience, and ſometimes chafe off the ſkin under the arm.

In order to facilitate this nice piece of buſineſs, and rectify any errors of this ſort, firſt take in the ſleeve behind, the inſide only, leave the outſide as large as it was before, only lock in the inſide to fit the ſcye. By this maxim, your Coat will receive a peculiar advantage, and give eaſe and freedom to the wearer; and in ſuch a caſe, when a coat cannot be worn, through thightneſs or conſtriction in the ſcye, let out the ſhoulder (for we hope you will always lay in there as well as at the ſide ſeam), as this is the place from whence relief muſt be had. You muſt not let out the ſide ſeam at the top, as is uſually done; this will only make it wider in the breaſt; nor will letting out the ſleeve and ſide ſeam anſwer any purpoſe

poſe towards eaſing the coat, without letting out the ſhoulder alſo; for all cramped ſcyes muſt have eaſe from the ſhoulder and ſleeve: for often the ſhoulder is peculiarly fleſhy and round, which demands extraordinary room.

In thoſe caſes, ſome ſay the ſcye is too little under the arm; but this is wrong, for the cauſe is before the arm at the fore ſeam of the ſleeve, and round the top of the ſhoulder; in conſequence of which it would be well to help the hand of inexperience by urging the neceſſity of laying in the ſhoulder fore part where the grievance lies; for in any conſtriction, letting out the ſleeve of the fore-arm, and giving room on the ſhoulder, will effect a radical cure.

The reaſon of our hint for laying in the ſide ſeam is to provide you with the means on any occaſion of making the Coat wider upon the breaſt, either from the fault of your own practice, or by rectifying the errors of others.

If you would wiſh to prove the preſcribed maxims by experience, make an effort upon

your own Coat. Take and pin your own Coat in at the ſhoulder, about one inch double on both ſides, then ſlip it on your back, and you will ſoon find the effect it has upon you, and how different from the ſame quantity being pinned up under the arm.

There requires much judgment to alter clothes well, that have been ſpoiled in the cutting, and it is with regret that we ſpeak it, that too many of this deſcription have come within the ſcope of our practice.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Of Great Coats.

HAVING treated upon the various kinds of dreſs, we ſhould hope by this time our ſtudent begins to poſſeſs the power of diſcrimination, and a few hints now will ſerve to lead him, we hope, to the ſeat of proficiency, where he may have leiſure to contemplate on the perplexity of his purſuits, and with a grateful ſenſe of his own application, rejoice that perſeverance has at length brought him to the ſummit of all his wiſhes.

A great coat is the very exterior of all dreſs, and though it is only uſed againſt the inclemency of the weather, has notwithſtanding its merits as well as conveniencies; for whatever merit your inner dreſs may poſſeſs, if there is the leaſt defect in the ſurtout, your whole

whole body will be deformed; therefore we propound the few following obſervations as a guide to the pupil's genius, and beg he may not ſlight the advice, as they are of more value than he may imagine, for we know that many of the Trade too wantonly ſport with the maxims of making a top coat.

In the firſt place we would adviſe them to cut it full and large to anſwer the intended purpoſe, the fore part muſt be cut ſomewhat longer in the ſhoulder than a ſtrait coat, to facilitate its putting on; the ſleeve to be cut three quarters of an inch wider in the double than a ſmall coat, and alſo longer by an inch and wider in the arm-hole, and eaſier in every part by three quarters of an inch, both in the back, acroſs the ſhoulders, and in the width of the body. There is often a great error in not being cut long enough before, this is chiefly owing to the cloth going ſtraight along the bottom, and not taking three inches off at the wealpiece; and begin cutting from that point to the front to nothing. This method will make the coat hang neat and ſtraight

round

round the bottom. Cut the ſhoulder as ſtraight as you can, for fear the coat ſhould fly back; for all great coats buttoned or unbuttoned ſhould hang neat and ſtraight down before, and with width to lap over, which is the intended purpoſe, and the end is anſwered.

SECTION

SECTION IV.

CHAP. I.

Of Ladies Habits.

THE great veneration we have for the Ladies makes us a little cautious how we arraign the inconſiſtency of the prevailing rage and faſhion of making Habits; yet ſurely it cannot be wrong to ſay that no furor, however outrageous, could be ſo truly ridiculous as the mode they now have adopted for adorning the moſt finiſhed part of the creation, and ſhould be ſtiled the Sport of Lady Faſhion in the year 1796.

As

As nature has been ſo delicately graceful in the formation of the Ladies, would it not be more conſiſtent with reaſon and elegance, if dreſſes were made coincident with nature, to diſplay the beautiful appearance of their charming features? Faſhion hath as many changes as variety, and all within the pale of ſymmetry and gentility; the Ladies have no occaſion to rack their fancies with prepoſterous diſtortions; the whole arcanum of extravagance is totally diſſimilar and foreign to graceful elegance and eaſe.

The preſent mode of making Riding Habits is much out of the regular method, for ſuch ſhort waiſts and broad lappells; buttons ſet ſo wide, and other incongruous maxims, that the maker with all his application is totally incapable of ſetting the beautiful finiſhing of nature in any point of view fit for public inſpection.

A few years ago it was a diſtinguiſhing merit in the habit maker to equip a Lady neatly in theſe habiliments of Diana, even when

taſte

taſte was in uniſon with the ſhape of the body; what muſt it be now when the rage of extravagance has ſtripped us of every guide that nature pointed out as a direction for fitting the body? What will future workmen ſay when we declare the difference and quick tranſition of faſhion in theſe particulars between 1793, when we were wont to cut waiſts full nine inches long from under the arm down to the hip (which by the bye is the choice way of meaſuring for the length of the waiſt), and in the year 1796 we have been obliged to cut them but three inches in the ſame place for the length, to figures of the ſame height and ſtature?

Habit-making is a neat and delicate piece of practice, and underſtood but by few; ſeldom practiſed, and unknown to thouſands of Taylors; and though by many may be thought a part of the Taylor's branch, is quite diſſimilar and as different as joinery and cabinet-making. Yet 'tis a pity that it were not a little more united to the Taylor's Trade, and become a matter of inſtruction to apprentices,

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by which means it might be diffuſed generally amongſt the Trade in the country, as well as in town; then Ladies might be ſerved upon any emergency in the country as well as in London; for it is with regret we ſpeak it, we have known Taylors both in town and country, who have done the Tayloring buſineſs as well as their neighbours, who rather than modeſtly own their inability to habit-making have undertaken this buſineſs in families to the ſpoil of materials, and loſs of their whole work, when they in other matters had for a time given decent ſatisfaction. A man ſhould not be blamed for what he does not know. —'Tis a pity country Taylors have not paid more reſpect to the nature of Habit-making; they have certainly neglected the moſt pleaſing appendage to the Buſineſs; for what in any ſituation can ſo ſtrongly recommend them to cuſtom and eſtabliſhment, as the good opinion and favour of the Ladies? Beſides conſidering the improvement of dreſs and manners, the popularity, riches and induſtry, of this country within the laſt thirty years.

It becomes not only a matter of merit but a cauſe of neceſſity for every man to make himſelf acquainted with every part of his buſineſs for his own benefit; the luxury and profuſion of the times require it. At the æra we have mentioned, where there was one habit then made, there are fifty now—for you hardly ſee a Franklin's wife, or farmer's daughter at a market, fair, or country wake without a Riding-Habit on. This makes the knowledge and practice the more eſſential; therefore to all our brethren of the Trade who may not be ſo well verſed in this point of neat practice, we ſhall uſe our beſt endeavours to ground them thoroughly in every particular that will tend to their improvement and accompliſhment, and what they have loſt by lack of practice, they will make up by doubling their diligence, and by ſtrictly adhering to the maxims that we ſhall point out and illuſtrate in the plates and figures annexed; we hope every ſearcher of the matter in queſtion will be able to avail himſelf of its uſes and advantages.

With reſpect to the meaſuring for a habit, take the following method:

Firſt, meaſure under the arm ſtraight down to the hollow by the hip, there mark your meaſure, which will be the length of your body; next down the back ſeam to the hip, then acroſs the half of the back; mark the meaſure, and then proceed to the elbow, and down to the hand; next meaſure round the arm at the top, and afterwards in as many places as you think proper; but be very correct in meaſuring round the wriſt, as that is a principal conſideration, and muſt fit cloſe and n at; then round the body as for a coat. With reſpect to the breaſt, be delicate and judicious, and take half acroſs, with a proper conſideration of eaſe for the riſing prominency; meaſure likewiſe from the top of the ſhoulder to the bottom of the ſtays before, or to what length the Lady may wiſh, or as the ruling faſhion may ſuggeſt; then for the length of the petticoat from the hip down to the ground, and any other part you think proper, but this is the leading feature. Theſe meaſurements being

taken, if it is required of you how much cloth will be neceſſary, you will be able nearly to aſcertain by the following rule:

If the Lady requires a half breadth in the ſkirt, you muſt have full three times the length of the ſkirt. If you ſhould be at a loſs how to put in the half breadth, obſerve our remarks in cutting out the habit.

Take your cloth and meaſure and cut off the petticoat firſt, then lay your cloth ſtraight, and cut the edges where the ſeams are to be exact by a line, then open the petticoat piece to the full width, and cut your placket holes ſix inches from the ſeam in the breadth, that is for the front, then lay a line from the top of the placket holes to the half of the breadth before; let it fall from the top two inches, to make a hollowing, and cut it off that it may not be too thick and clumſy in the binding.—After your ſeams are ſewed, you will find more width in the breadth behind than before by twelve inches, which habit ſkirts require. In plaiting up the coat to the width of the waiſt,

waiſt, mind you lay all your plaits towards the hip in the front; in the front breadth leave to the front about three inches plain, and in the breadth behind lay the plaits from the hip to hang in ſuch a way that the inſide of the plaits behind may ſeem like the outſide of the plaits before, and mind you lay all your plaits full at the hips; this will give a ſwelling appearance to the coat, and add much to the effect. Should you want half a breadth more in, take the remaining part of the cloth and ſplit it in two, and put the pieces on each ſide, then the petticoat will hang properly, and the ſeams not out of their places; ſtill remembering to make your pocket-holes twelve inches within the half breadth, that is ſix inches on each ſide as before; and after it is plaited, put a band of cloth three inches wide at the top of the coat, both before and behind, and in the front fobs for the watches.

In cutting the Jacket part of the Habit, pray be a little circumſpect, as ſome taſte and genius is required.

Firſt mark your back according to the Plate, and take full as large a back hollowing as the Plate defines; for in this part we ſee errors in many of the principal habit-makers. For want of ſufficient hollowing in the back the Jacket ſkirts part behind; but if you follow the dictates of the Plate, you will find the back will lap over behind when the ſeam is ſewed up.

Yet this hollowing of the back muſt be done with diſcretion, for ſhould you do it to exceſs, you will ſpoil the economy and fitting of the whole Habit, and make it wrinkle both acroſs the back and under the arm (a common error you too frequently ſee).—Obſerve alſo you cut the top of the back wide in the ſhoulders, for women are in that part proportionably bigger than men up to the back of the neck; this may be owing to their having leſs reſtraint upon this part than men.

Take notice in cutting your fore part you mark the turn of the plate, its double breaſt, large lappels, and the mode of putting the buttons

tons on as far back as poſſible; holding this maxim in view, that the change or mutability of Faſhion will make no alteration in the rule for fitting the Body.

Of cutting the back and fore part to anſwer each other ſo as to ſit with eaſe and elegance, in order to make the back and fore part both in unity, lay the hip of the back to the hip of the fore part, and ſtretch the back up as high as you can, and at figure 2 the top of the back (in plate D,) juſt in the point, there mark your fore part ſhoulder acroſs, and cut it to the likeneſs of the Plate, with an agreeable pigeon breaſt, and beautiful ſmall waiſt adequate to your meaſure. If it is required that your jacket part ſhould be a ſingle breaſt, conſider that a round prominent breaſt is the chief ornament, and give your ſide ſeams the ſame ſhape as the Plate; likewiſe your ſkirts according to the direction laid down, that when you baſte it on, you will find it agreeably anſwer to the back ſkirt, and they will all fall eaſy together.

Theſe conſiderations you will find worthy your cloſeſt application.——Many of the maxims are but ſlightly underſtood. In joining the back and fore parts pray avoid the old trite cuſtom of bearing on either the fore part or the back; 'tis pity that many decent practitioners of the Trade will ſtill follow this method of bearing on the front in one place, and the back part in another, without conſidering that bearing on the fore part drags the back, and bearing on the back drags the fore part; though this perhaps may not be ſeen in the firſt inſtance, as preſſing will ſink the parts for a time, but in a few days wear the diſagreeable effects will appear, and the lady inſtead of receiving an addition to her ſhape, will appear crooked and deformed.

By all means ſew the ſeams ſtraight, this is the genuine way, and a truiſm ſo trite in nature, that every practitioner muſt be convinced of it; if he conſiders the habit bodies without any ſeam at all, there the cloth is ſtraight without

without bearing on, and ſo muſt all Habits with ſeams, or they will never fit the body.

Be careful how you cut the ſhoulder of the fore part, for ſhould you make it too ſhort though but one quarter of an inch, your Habit will wrinkle under the arm and acroſs the back. Some Ladies, through a protuberance in front, require a long fore part, which will baffle any thing but great experience, and muſt be provided againſt. Touching the ſleeve, you muſt have recourſe to the Plate for the form and manner; draw it in at the bend of the arm a little, for the Ladies through cuſtom have a manner of holding their arms more upon the bend than men, which requires the ſleeves to be cut more crooked and bent; alſo in making the ſleeve at the top, be ſure in the ſewing to lock in the inſide full one inch, this will make the inſide leſs than the out, which when put on will clear that too frequent ſuperfluous part under the arms, which is an egregious fault too often expoſed to our view.

Clear your arm hole before you put in the ſleeve, which bear on the back ſcye to the ſleeve up as high as the ſhoulder ſeam; then bear on the ſleeve on the ſhoulder to the front and make the body with large ſcye pieces, as the friction of the arm againſt the ſtays very ſoon wears them out.

Cut the collar as is ſhewn in the Plate, on the bottom edge, and make a large ſlit at the hand that the ſleeve may come off eaſy. A Denmark ſleeve with four buttons is moſt ſuitable to draw off, and may be made to button cloſe and neat to the wriſt; the plaits take the ſame tacking as a coat, and we would recommend the ſkirts to be rantered on, as the body will by this means look much neater in the wearing.

Alſo note, if you cut your back too wide acroſs the ſhoulders, it diſconcerts the fitting upon the top or neck of the ſhoulders, and will keep the ſleeve from coming up and make a diſagreeable appearance of the ſleeve ſeam li-

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ning down on the arm, which is too frequently complained of.

The way to prevent any faults in this place is to cut the back narrow acroſs the ſhoulder, and give more ſleeve to anſwer this; for whenever you take from one place, you muſt add to the other to make out the ſize. We have in the courſe of our practice met with Habits that the ſeam of the ſleeve has turned upon the top of the arm, and the ſame Habit returned from alteration ſeveral times with the common fault till we ſaw it, and found the defect aroſe from not having pitched the ſleeve right.

The proper way of doing this is, take the habit body, lay it with one hand two inches from the hip, and the other hand in the arm hole, and where it folds, which may be about two inches from the ſhoulder ſeam, from which place double it under the arm, then double it from the back ſcye to before, and where the mark falls there let the ſeams of your ſleeves be put, as that is the right way

of

of dividing the arm-hole in four parts, which will cauſe the ſleeves to hang true without twiſting.

CHAP. II.

Habits Continued.

BEFORE we leave the ſubject of Habits, we wiſh to impreſs our ſtudents with a few material hints relative to alterations of ſuch as may fall into their hands for amendment, being injudiciouſly made by other people, who by incapacity had brought themſelves into ſuch a dilemma that neither genius or experience could acquit them to their employers, or juſtify the practice to their own feelings.

A thing

A thing of this kind lately came under our inſpection, by an inſignificant perſon of the Trade, who with a woeful complaint of the great danger he ſtood in of loſing the countenance of a lady of the firſt faſhion, whoſe recommendation had brought him into repute; we commiſerated his caſe, and learnt that the great grievance was a pinching under the arms, and a very diſagreeable wrinkling from the lower part of the arm-pits quite acroſs the back.

We inſtantly informed him the fore part was too ſhort for the back, and ordered him to unrip it and take out the ſleeves, then told him to lay the back upon the fore part joining at the hip, afterwards to hold up the back to the top corner next the ſhoulder point at the neck, and extend as high as the back ſhoulder; he then found it reached over the fore part two inches, in conſequence of which he naturally pieced two inches to the fore part ſhoulder, and another piece half down the neck, and cut off the remainder at the ſcye, that the fore part

might

might not exceed the length of the back, and then joined it together again; but alas! when this was done, there ſtill remained another fault: the ſcye was too big for the ſleeve; on ſecond application we told him he ſhould have put the back two inches lower at the hip, and ſink the fore part under the arm as low as the back ſcye required, and cut off the back ſkirt as much as the back was too long, which was lengthening the fore part without piecing, and faſhioning the body ſo as the back and fore part anſwered each other, and the arm-hole made no longer than it was before.

Having thus proceeded, he had it cloſed together again, when the Jacket fitted the body with the greateſt nicety. This being done, he had another complaint in the petticoat, which ſeldom happens with people of almoſt any practice; this fault was, the coat would not hang down ſtraight before, but roſe up on the belly, which totally disfigured the Lady, and ſhewed her in front in a ſituation which circumſtances had not in the leaſt entitled her to; this was

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an egregious fault, which we told him was owing to the coat being too much hollowed before, which dragged it up and made it ſtand out ſo in the middle, as the hollowings were not cut off; this matter was eaſily remedied. We told him to let it down two inches before, and that would ſettle the buſineſs.

Had the hollowing been cut off, the whole dreſs would have been ſpoiled; after this matter was adjuſted, he carried and fitted on both Jacket and Coat, which ſat extremely neat upon the Lady, and gave great ſatisfaction. The grateful acknowledgments of our brother Tradeſman, after he had accompliſhed his point, was adequate to the favor we conferred upon him.

Bad cutting is a ſore evil, and very fatal to many of our Brothers of the Trade; numbers to our knowledge, men of great ſobriety and diligence, have ruined themſelves by the cut of their own ſhears.

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Before we began this undertaking, we had premiſed a ſcheme of keeping a public office, where one of the ſociety would have daily attended to have given inſtructions in every caſe and matter of the buſineſs that might require aſſiſtance; but this was over-ruled by a ſuppoſition, that the taſk would be too arduous for one perſon, owing to the great lack of genius that appeared ſo palpable in the Trade; therefore ſtruck upon the method of Publiſhing our maxims, as having a general tendency and likely to diffuſe precepts, which properly attended to would be for the univerſal benefit of mankind.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Of Making a Coat for a Fat Man.

THIS is a difficult piece of buſineſs to the learner, and wants great practice, but we hope with a little application and ſtrictly adhering to the turn and manner of the Plate, he will be able to compaſs it with great nicety.

The mode of Meaſuring a fat man differs not from the rules already laid down, for men of reaſonable ſize. When you begin to mark for cutting out, be ſure to make a long back ſcye, and give plenty of room on the top of the back ſhoulder; this will aſſiſt the eaſe of the arm-hole. In cutting the back, do not begin to hollow till you come to Fig. 2, and keep

keep gradually down to the back ſlit, your ſide ſeam make with an agreeable hollow as is ſhaped in the Plate, and take care you are not too wide over the ſhoulder, for this would be a conſpicuous error, and diſorder the ſleeves much more than in a thin man; without theſe things are noticed, it will be difficult for a fat Man to ſuſtain his coat upon his ſhoulders, owing to the fleſhineſs of them, and the ſhort neck.

When you lay the back upon the cloth for the fore part, give it the ſame ſweep as is ſhewn in Fig. 3, Plate D, and make your ſide ſeams ſtraight; for by throwing the fore part ſhoulder ſo back, it requires the ſide ſeam to be partly ſtraight, the ſame as the faſhion of the Plate, for what is wanting in ſize give it before. When you want the length of the fore part united, take the ſame method as is defin'd for a regular ſize, with this proviſo; inſtead of making the back at Fig. 4 come in the middle, make it come at the point next the ſhoulder, for this will augment the length of the fore part ſhoulder, which addition is required in a fat man much longer than in thoſe

of

of a regular ſize. We ſhould wiſh the ſtudent always to lay in a little at the ſhoulder of a fat man, for the ſhortneſs of his neck will contract the ſhoulders, and make the Coat wrinkle under the arm; by laying a little in, if he finds the ſhoulders too ſhort, he can eaſily let it down.

To make the ſquare, from the point of the ſhoulder down to the hip, and wherever the mark falls at the bottom of the ſkirt, there muſt be the ſquare, and the ſame rule from the hip to the ſcye, and then to the point of the ſhoulder next the neck, from Fig. 2, to Fig. 2; and be a little particular in cutting your ſcye or arm-hole, by keeping ſtrictly to the manner of the Plate.

Obſerve well the round of a ſingle-breaſted Coat, as is deſcribed in the Plate; and if you ſhould want to make a fat man's Coat lapelled, you may make this addition, or any other that faſhion may conſtitute, when you thoroughly underſtand the previous maxim of cutting a ſingle-breaſted Coat. Obſerve the neck of the

Coat muſt be ſhort; for ſhould you make a long gorget to the fore part of the neck, the collar will be on the breaſt; as you have the ſhears in your own hand, you can uſe them as diſcretion may ſuggeſt.

CHAP. IV.

Of Altering Clothes badly made.

IT is not to be wondered at that ſo many miſtakes happen among Taylors who have no rule or criterion to go by, but leave every thing to blind chance, or what is almoſt as bad, following the maxims of ill-informed maſters, without ever conſulting either reaſon or nature whether ſuch practice was within the pale of likelihood to ſucceed.

A ſuit

A ſuit of clothes lately came to us for alteration, ſubject to the following faults; firſt of the breeches, which were full three inches too ſhort; this we did perceive had been a fault in the meaſuring, for had the Taylor took his meaſure from the hip bone down to below the knee-cap, he would have prevented this diſagreeable diſaſter.

The Taylors have a method of meaſuring by the old Breeches, without conſidering how much their weight and wear has ſunk them into wrinkles. This often deceives them, when if they would meaſure as before obſerved, they would prevent ſuch errors in future.

CHAP. V.

Next of the Waiſtcoat.

THIS was cut ſo ſhort in the back, that whenever the wearer roſe from his ſeat, the waiſtcoat roſe up to his ſtomach. As we have written ſo copiouſly of the maxims of making Waiſtcoats to fit, we beg to refer our reader to that chapter, which will inform him of the true method; and by having recourſe to the Plate, when he takes any Waiſtcoat that misfits aſunder, by trying it by theſe rules, he will inſtantly find the cauſe of error, and be able to apply a proper remedy.

After this, we obſerved the Coat, which pinched under the arms, which is the firſt general complaint; it was too ſtrait over the ſhoulders, that he could not bring his arms forward: it was too wide over the breaſt, ſo we took

took out the ſleeves and unripped the coat, found the fore part too ſhort for the back.

We inſtantly ſunk the fore part hip two inches, and put the hip of the back to the ſame place: then found the back and the fore part to anſwer as the Plate directs you. We pieced a uſual to the fore part neck, and then took a piece off from the fore part of the ſhoulder, and in cutting it away, we continued it round to the ſcye before, and then cut out a full inch and half, as the breaſt would admit of it: this gave room to the part behind, and eaſed the confinement of the ſhoulders.

We found by giving the body of the Coat this liberty, we wanted our ſleeve two inches longer, and the ſleeve to be wider in the top: this happened rather lucky, as the ſleeve was laid in on the inſide of the fore ſeam, which we let out, then ſunk the elbow the two inches we gave in the ſhoulders, and made the ſleeves three inches longer at the wriſt: after this we cut from the bottom of the back as much as we had ſunk it down, made up the

Coat again, put on a new collar three inches longer than that which had been put on before; and when the gentleman put on his Coat again, he was happily freed from the inconveniencies, as they fitted him with great ſatisfaction to himſelf, and credit to us.

Our learner will underſtand that this coat was made to the meaſure of the man's body, but not containing the ſcientific points requiſite to eaſe and elegance, the errors became both problematical and paradoxical.

CHAP. VI.

To make a Jacket and Trowſers for a Boy.

THIS little appendage is uſually the firſt change the parents give their children, when they are tired of ſeeing them in frocks, and we think as eaſy and ſimple (well made) as

as any thing that can be ſubſtituted. The way to meaſure thoſe infants, as you can have no guide by other clothes made, or from their frocks, is from the hip-bone down to the joint of the ankle for the trowſers, and meaſure every other part you pleaſe, by the joints, and allow them of ſuch ſize as they may ſit with eaſe, that nature may have room to extend her improvements.

When you have eaſily meaſured, leave room for your ſeams, and have recourſe to the Plate for the figure of the dreſs, and be ſure to cut the leg ſeam of the trowſers exactly ſtraight, and do not make them too wide as many do; let moderation be your guide, for nothing is more diſagreeable than to ſee children overloaded with cloth in the firſt inſtance.

Cut the ſeat ſmall, and high enough upon the hip, and put on a band with pockets for the child's convenience; and at the bottom of the trowſers, put on three or four buttons, not too tight, and ſtrings, which will give a ſmartneſs to their little legs, and let the jacket button

under the trowſers; and if the ſeat is not cut too large, and the jacket cut after the manner of the Plate, you will be ſure to complete the matter with neatneſs.

There are various other kinds of dreſſes in uſe for children, but for the firſt we think the above as good as any; the moſt ridiculous are thoſe that are made after the manner of grown up people, with Coat, Waiſtcoat and Breeches, making them appear like dwarfs, or little old men.

We believe it is a kind of cuſtom which ignorance and inexperience have invented to recommend to their employers ſuch modes of making things as is moſt familiar to their own ideas; for it is very natural for mothers to make choice of thoſe faſhions that the Taylor ſays the child will look the beſt in.

A circumſtance of this ſort lately happened on a journey we had into the country, where calling at a very reſpectable public-houſe, by the road ſide, we ſaw a pretty boy newly habilimented,

bilimented, but in ſuch a way, as would have have provoked riſibility in a ſtoick.

The dreſs was a Jacket and Trowſers; but ſurely nothing ever looked ſo truly ridiculous; the child looked like Scaramouch in a Harlequin entertainment; and to heighten the ſcene, a few neighbours were drinking down the landlady's ſpleen with their own comments in a glaſs of good ale.

The Trowſers were wide enough and almoſt long enough for his father, and what was worſe, the child was obliged to hold them up with both hands, and when he had pulled them up to the height, they were ſtill long enough to ſweep the ground; the Waiſtcoat was too ſhort by five inches, ſo the little ſhirt was obliged to make up the defalcation between them; and in order to garniſh out the force of riſibility, the Taylor had ornamented the Jacket with what is called ſlaſh-flaps, turned wrong ſide before; for he had put the ſeam of the flap towards the back, and the points

of

of the flaps to the fore part, with three buttons to each flap, one at each corner.

The landlord hearing the different remarks of his cuſtomers, ſaid he did not ſo much mind the ſpoiling of the things, as the fun that every body made that looked at the child; as the boy was pretty and remarkably ſtraight, the Taylor had all the blame.

A farrier, as he emptied his mug ſaid, if it had been a child of his that had been ſo disfigured, he would have pared the Taylor's hoof, but he would have made him fit the boy better; an exciſeman replied, for his part as there ſeemed to be cloth enough and to ſpare in the Trowſers to make all good, he would have the child freſh gauged, and the things altered and made to fit him.

"You ſay right, Mr. Figures," cried the landlady, "that's what I ſay to my huſband; "for to have the child laughed at in this man-"ner, all through a cabbage-headed ſon of a "cucumber; why," ſays ſhe, "it was only "yeſterday,

" yeſterday, as Mrs. Caudle, the nurſe, had " hold of the arms of poor Mrs. Feeble, that " Doctor Forceps lay a few weeks ago of the " two boys, was going to be churched, (for " by the bye the church-yard joined the public " houſe) ſhe fell into ſuch a titter of laughing " at the boy, that ſhe had like to have fallen " with her noſe againſt the church wall. I ſay, " if I was my huſband, I would ſend for Mr. " Bodkin, who is ſomething like a Taylor, " makes for the quality, and let him alter " them as they ſhould be, and Tom Thim- " ble ſhall never preſs a button-hole for me " again, as long as he lives."

At theſe words in came the Taylor, for it was about the time of his allowance.——" O " Mr. Thimble, are you there?—Did you " ever ſee the like, gentlemen—I will aſſure " you, ſir, my child ſhan't be the laughing- " ſtock any longer in thoſe things."—" Why " ma'am, what's the matter?"—" Matter," quoth ſhe; " look at this ſweet boy, was he " made to be the butt of your blunders?"— " Why, to be ſure ma'am, the ſleeves are a lit-

" tle

" tle too ſhort, and rather too wide, and ſo are
" the Trowſers, they may be ſaid to be too long
" and wide, but thoſe are good faults, and the
" Waiſtcoat is a few inches too ſhort alſo."

After this Mr. Thimble acknowledged, he made them after the manner of ſome which came from London, and he thought they were fit for any body to look upon; he ſaid he knew his buſineſs, or elſe it was a pity, for he had been above twenty years at it.

Such vain ſtupidity as this, is unbearably pitiable, and almoſt too ridiculous to laugh at. However, we hope in future, ſuch vanity and folly will be done away, for if men will but read, and apply themſelves to the preceding ſheets, they will be able to do all their buſineſs with eaſe and ſatisfaction.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Of a Lady's Levett, or Great Coat.

THOSE dreſſes are worn by ſome inſtead of habits, but they are moſtly out of faſhion by people of rank, and have only their admirers in the country amongſt the farmers' wives and daughters.

There is much neatneſs attached to them when they are well made, and require as much delicacy in cutting and making as a habit; the principal difference is, that the ſkirt of the Levett is faſtened to the body, and the Jacket and Petticoat of the Riding Habit are two abſtract matters. If you pleaſe to have recourſe to the Plate, you will find the turns of the ſame nature as the Habit.

Bind the front breadth from the pocket-hole with a band to button on the body before, and plait it in the band the ſame as in the Habit Peticoat, with any other addition of ornament, which fancy or faſhion may dictate.

CHAP. VIII.

Of a Lady's Phæton Coat.

THIS is made after the manner of a coachman's Box Coat, with as many capes, &c. and the only difficulty attending this buſineſs is in fitting the capes, which is done in the following manner:—When your ſhoulders are cloſed, and the ſide ſeam, open the Coat, and mark if the back and fore part ſhoulders lie flat upon the board; if ſo, then cut the capes exactly as the ſhape of the neck is, and when they are on will ſit ſnug and eaſy; this

is

is as eaſy and general a way as we can deviſe for the uninformed; adepts may take other methods.

Obſerve that the back and fore part muſt be both of a length at the top, the back muſt not drop in the middle of the ſhoulder, but like the neck of a Waiſtcoat, come cloſe up before; but at the bottom before it muſt be five inches longer than the back behind, or it will not hang well; when on, it will be ſhorter before than behind.—The very like muſt be a coachman's Box Coat in every part. Stand-up collars are ſometimes made to ladies' coats, but Box Coats have fall-downs, but both muſt be cut long in the neck, to be plaited on under the collar to give eaſe upon the ſhoulders.

An inexperienced man in theſe matters would hardly ſuppoſe the quantity of cloth made uſe of in theſe capes. We have known four yards and a half uſed (of narrow cloth) in one of them.

Having

HAVING led our pupil thus far, we hope he will be able now to find his way without aſſiſtance. If his application is but adequate to the deſire we have had to ſerve him, he will, we make no doubt, cut a very brilliant figure in the Trade, after he has had a little practice to juſtify our maxims.

CHAP. IX.

Of Patent Elaſtic Habits, and other Clothes, made without the Accuſtomed Seams.

THIS very delicate piece of practice is not an invention of our ſchool, though we are taking upon us the authority of defining it to the world. We muſt own we are poſſeſſed of the liberal ſentiments of the author, and wiſh to pay him every praiſe adequate to his great abilities in the Trade, as well

well as his condeſcenſion and generoſity in permitting us to publiſh it in our work.

The inventor is Mr. JAMES KEY, late of *Bond-ſtreet*, born, we are told, at *Atherſtone* in *Warwickſhire*, a man of attention and great application in buſineſs, and who for this very diſtinguiſhing maxim and delicate piece of practice in the execution of making clothes and habits without the accuſtomed ſeams, (in the ſleeves, &c.) received his Majeſty's Royal Letters Patent.

It is not for this invention only that our tribute of praiſe is ſo pointedly levelled, but in every other branch of the Trade; for we have made it our buſineſs to come at ladies' habits, and clothes of every ſort of his making, which we have unripped, to poſſeſs ourſelves of his methods, which we muſt own has given us great ſatisfaction, for we think him a compleat maſter of the ſhears, and one of the Trade's greateſt ornaments.

CHAP. X.

Of Breeches without the Accuſtomed Seams.

BEFORE we proceed in detail, we ſhall beg our readers to turn to Plate A, where he will find a ſketch of a pair of Breeches without leg-ſeam, ſide-ſeam, waiſt-band, or knee-band ſeams, they being all left in the ſtuff, and which are made to anſwer as well as thoſe with ſeams, which we think much neater, eſpecially for ribbed or ſtriped ſtuff, broad or narrow cloth, kerſey-mere, ſtocking, or any ſtuff that has the leaſt elaſticity in it. They ſit ſo neat to the thigh, and are in no danger of injury by the work-men's bad practice in the ſeams, which often cauſes diſorder by ignorance or negligence in this particular. If the other parts are pro-perly united, this method will be found to exceed

exceed in nicety any other practice for delicacy and compleat fitting.

We need not ſay any thing of the mode of meaſuring in any of the future matters we have to treat of, as the ſame inſtructions already given on previous caſes, will anſwer in every point for theſe breeches, &c.

We ſhall not wonder if our pupils are a little aſtoniſhed at the appearance of the Figure in the Plate for thoſe Breeches; however fancifully it may ſtrike him, we aſſure him this is a true reſemblance, and the genuine way to cut them.

When you have the ſtuff before you, as ſtocking, kerſeymere, &c. which runs but half yard wide, it is impoſſible to make them without ſome of the ſeams; for if a ſeam more runs up to the ſeat, that behind will be but of little conſequence, being quite out of ſight. You muſt underſtand that nothing but broad cloth will anſwer to make them with one ſeam, to run up the back-ſide of

each thigh. If you are about making ſtocking, or corderoy, or any materials of the ſame width, having your meaſure ready, mark down about four inches from the edge for the ſide ſeam, and leave that to turn over to make part of the inſide; afterwards mark your leg-ſeam, as if you wanted to cut it at the chalk, and add as much ſtuff beyond that as may be neceſſary to turn over to meet the other part for the inſide, and that will make the ſeams under the thigh all the way up. What is wanting to make the ſeat, you muſt piece to, till your ſeat is as compleat, as if you had made both leg and ſide ſeams.

There is this difference in thoſe ſort of Breeches from others, that when you mark your knee-ſlit after the manner of the Figure in the Plate, you muſt leave your inſide much longer, that in the turning over to put a piece down the ham to ſet the buttons on to, it will require the ſame as the knee: ſlit that up as if you were cutting a ſlit in a ſleeve, and put a catch under; but ſuppoſe it muſt want a very large one, as the trimming

ming up for the ſeat always draws a very open place; afterwards fold it down as the Plate directs in Fig. 4 on Fig. 4; Fig. 5 on Fig. 5; Fig. 2 on Fig. 2, and Fig. 3 on Fig. 3, and down at No. 7: that point muſt be particularly noticed, as this part commands the power of the ſeat.

This point is left to give room to the ſeat, for when Fig. 7 is put over Fig. 7, you will find the point very long; the ſeat requires it, for the draft lies in the hip and ſtride; conſequently there muſt be room left ſomewhere: therefore we aver that this maxim will anſwer the ſame purpoſe as putting in a large quantity down the hip. Let your waiſtband part be cut no longer than the meaſure in any ſort of materials; if of the elaſtic kind *leſs*; as much as is directed in the chapter of ſtocking breeches.

When you cut your fall-down, let it be long as from Fig. 8 to Fig. 8, then down to Fig. 9, and at that place put a welt all round,

and under it put the canvas, and ſeam it in to the waiſtband; do the pockets the ſame way. If it is a caſh welt, let it be in the ſame manner as all others, viz. cut a ſlit and ſeam on a welt bit. Let your waiſtband be as forward as we have in appearance drawn them in the plate, for on this principle depends the very certainty of the fall-down's ſitting clear.

If a waiſtband is not forward enough, the fall-down muſt be diſordered; this is an evil complained of too frequently, reſulting intirely from bad practice, which Taylors are as reprehenſible for as bad cutting. When Breeches are not well cut, they are ſure to loſe their ſituation upon the breech, either in the act of ſitting down or walking; when badly made, they are as ſure to be drawn from their natural poſition, which cauſes diſtortion and diſagreeable wrinkles.

This verifies an old trite proverb amongſt the Trade, that let ſome men have ever ſuch favourable incitements to ſtudy, or opportunities

portunities for practice and inſtruction, ſtill the dung-fork is in their hands, and would much better become them, than either the needle or the Taylor's ſhears.

CHAP. XI.

Of the Patent Riding Habit.

THIS matter we have moſt minutely obſerved, and given it our beſt attention, and ſincerely think the invention deſerves every notice that the warmth of panegyric can beſtow upon it. For it is not only capital in the execution, but beneficial in the inſtitution; the very fine materials of which the habit clothes are manufactured required the invention, and muſt have been judiciouſly and ſeriouſly conſidered by the patentee, for the *Dye* of many of the moſt elegant colours is ſo delicate that the preſs of the hot

iron upon the ſeams too frequently changes the colour of the cloth, which carries a diſagreeable appearance, but is totally done away by making the body of one intire piece, and cutting the ſleeves ſo ingeniouſly that both front and back ſeams of the arm are eradicated, and only one ſeam fine drawn quite under the arm, imperceptible to either wearer or obſerver.

We think ſeams ſhould always be diſpenſed with, eſpecially where they are more a prejudice than a uſe. When Ladies Habit ſleeves are made without the uſual ſeams, this ſurely prevents a great deal of duſt from lodging, which if caught by a ſhower of rain, can never have that clean and regular appearance as the inſide of the arm bruſhed without the ſeam the ſame as any other part of the body.

Even in Gentlemen's coats, how frequently do we ſee diſagreeable appearances in the inſide ſeams by the lodging of powder, duſt, &c. which by conſtant ſevere bruſhing the ſewing is ſoon wore and the ſleeves become faded and

ſhabby

ſhabby before the knap is worn off the reſt of the coat.

From the forementioned premiſes the Patent Riding Habit has greatly the advantage, not only for the great merit of cutting and making the ſleeves, but alſo the body, being made without ſeams, either on the ſide or the back; and to ſhew that our opinions are not ſingular we have ſeen them upon the back of numbers of Ladies of the firſt diſtinction, made by the patentee; and what is more, we are credibly informed it has received the ſanction of our amiable Queen, the Princeſſes, and all the Royal Family.

There will very ſingular advantages reſult to mantua-makers, who may think proper to conſult the inſtructions we ſhall adduce for the execution of this nice piece of practice, which will be full as beneficial to them as profeſſed Habit-makers,

There is but little difference between making Habits of fine broad cloth and Cotton, the ſame maxims muſt be uſed; in either a ſtrict obſer-

obſervation muſt be indiſpenſibly paid to the delineations we have laid down in the Plate. When you have paid a due application to the manner of it, and are about to cut out one of thoſe Habits without ſeams in the back or ſides, firſt lay the ſtuff double ſtraight down from the part where the back ſeam is uſually made; cut the waiſt to point down before, after the manner of the Fig. in the Plate, and hollow it in the very ſame form, from the bottom of the back acroſs to the fore part; the ſcheme of this maxim will be obvious, when we inform our pupil that when the ſhoulders are cloſed together, it will drag it up before, which makes an eſſential difference between cutting one of this ſort and one with ſeams; for if the learner will but try, he will find from the top of the back at Fig. 2 to the top of the ſhoulder at Fig. 3 to be of the ſame length as it is from the bottom of the back at the ſeam place acroſs to the point down before; that when the ſhoulders are ſeamed together, the body part at the bottom will be ſtraight and level all round, and the fore part no longer than the back.

Theſe are the ſymptoms that produce ſuch admirable effects, giving room in every part, yet compels the back and body to ſit clean and clear from wrinkles when put on, which even aſtoniſhes experienced Taylors, though grounded in the cauſe that effects it.

Here is a diſtinguiſhing preference between theſe and ſuch as are made with ſeams; for the patent one will wear much neater and keep their place all the time they are in wear.

We have been told of many who have imagined it was a point of eaſy practice to make one of thoſe Patent Habit Bodies, who for want of experience have failed as often as they attempted it, and muſt ever do ſo till they follow the rules here laid down. Such practitioners will make a better ſhift with habits that are made with ſeams, for they may have the advantage of alterations to bring them in point; in the other the merit is in the cutting, and muſt be achieved by the firſt effort with a little conſideration of ſeaming the parts properly together. But

we hope thoſe, and the other with ſeams, are ſo clear both in detail and definition in the Figures in the Plates, that with a little practice, no profeſſor in the buſineſs will be long in ignorance either about the practice of habits, or any other part of the buſineſs.

We muſt further obſerve that in making Habits with ſeams, one of the principal errors ariſes from the different parts not working well together; for to manage this matter properly, the back ſeam muſt be cut ſo as a kind of elaſticity will reſult from it; the ſides almoſt the ſame.

The fore parts are cut in a different direction, and run a contrary way, which if not duly obſerved, will cauſe one part not to work with the other, owing chiefly to uniting places that are cut elaſtic, with ſuch as will not ſtretch. This reſults from the ignorance of thoſe who ſeam them together. There are men who are ſo confident as to bear on the back in ſome places, and on the fore parts in others, and affirm that the body

requires

requires it; but we totally contradict this. They must not be fulled on in any part, nothing can be so puerile or childish as to bear on in one part of the cloth more than the other, they must be all equal. To suppose that fulling any particular part of a Riding Habit could assist the fitting of it, is a most ridiculous conceit, and unworthy the attention of any man possessed of the least scientific knowledge in the Trade.

We hope shortly to see all such monstrous incongruities banished, and that the strong will assist the weak, that a kind of sympathetic union may be maintained in every shop throughout the world.

The previous observations with the Fig. 2, of the separated parts in the Plate, we hope will be sufficient to define the whole method of making the Patent Habit. The sleeve, which is most peculiar in the practice, will appear so plain to every Taylor by the drawing, that a further detail will be unnecessary; his own reason will tell him, that from the front

front and back ſeams of the arms in the uſual places, marked on the cloth, that a ſurplus both of the inſide and outſide muſt be left on the cloth in width, to make as much as will turn round the arm to be rantered or fine drawn underneath; and that in bending, after the ſleeve is marked and nicked in the hollow part of the arm, and the cloth is turned down to the under-ſide, that a guſſet piece muſt be taken out of the inſide, and then fine drawn to complete the bend of the ſleeve; the ſame of the outſide.

Theſe obſervations might be reduced to practice by the ſtudent before his firſt attempt (if he is doubtful) by cutting a ſleeve or two out of paper, and turning them down, as is above obſerved.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

Of Occurrences that may happen in Fat Men's Coats, made by ſelf-ſufficient Pretenders.

WE wiſh not to deſcant upon any Pretender to the art, further than may be ſerviceable to our preſent purpoſe; in order to lead our pupils from the thorny way of error and uncertainty, into the genuine flowery path of ſcience and proficiency.

A few of the following hints, we hope, will be ſerviceable, relative to the misfitting of a fat man's coat; for it is with great uneaſineſs we are obliged to declare that it is very irkſome to us either to meet or follow any of thoſe full figured gentlemen, for their garments are generally ſo prepoſterouſly cut, that it is almoſt impoſſible

impoſſible to keep the riſible faculties in ſubjection, let the object that wears them be ever ſo engaging and reſpectable. This we attribute in a great meaſure to weakneſs and the ſelf-ſufficiency of pride; for certain it is we have known ſeveral maſters who might have been greatly aſſiſted in theſe matters, after clothes have been returned for misfitting, by their own men; but inſtead of confeſſing an error, inſtantly falls on the whimſical unſatisfied temper of the employer, rather than candidly acknowledge a defect of their own abilities in the face of their men.

A circumſtance of this kind once happened in the preſence of one of the ſociety: A Taylor of no little conſequence having meaſured for, and made a ſuperfine coat for a noted public preacher, it was returned upon his hands, with a liſt of the following faults:

Firſt, it wrinkled under the arm, and all acroſs the back, and likewiſe *pinched* under the arm, wrinkled acroſs the breaſt, and bound in the neck; the ſleeve at the bend of

of the elbow was out of its place, and greatly twiſted.

The Taylor was ſo irritated that he inſtantly ordered one of the men to unrip it; and taking it to his cutting-board, tried it with his meaſure, and found it anſwer as to length and width in every part. This ſo ſurpriſed him, that he was quite uncertain how to proceed: his wife ſeeing his diſtreſs ſaid,

"My dear Mr. Twiſt, what is the mat-
"ter?"—"I wiſh I could tell you Mrs.
"Twiſt; I have got a Coat returned here
"from the great fat Doctor Teſtament, that
"makes ſuch a noiſe in the world."—"I am
"ſorry for that indeed," ſays the kind loving wife, "becauſe the doctor has ſuch an ex-
"tenſive connexion, and being ſuch a pub-
"lic character, his clothes are more noticed
"than almoſt any perſon's."—"That's the
"thing," ſays Mr. Twiſt, "that hurts me
"ſo much."—"Adad," replies Mrs. Twiſt,
"my dear, I'll tell you what you ſhall do;

" you know there is Mr. Artiſt, at the cor-
" ner of the ſtreet, that teaches young men
" to cut clothes, and Ladies' Habits of every
" ſort, he has a great name, I will myſelf
" ſtep for him, he is a very civil man, and
" you ſhall ſubmit the caſe to him."—" But
" conſider my dear, how that will look, for
" a man of my note to want inſtructions. I
" have ſeveral good workmen, but I can-
" not ſubmit to aſk the advice of ſuch idle
" drunken fellows."

The good ſenſe of Mrs. Twiſt, however, got the better of her huſband's pride, and our friend Artiſt was ſent for and conſulted, who informed Mr. Twiſt, that wrinkling acroſs the breaſt was an error from the ſcye being cut too deep, which prevented it lying cloſe under the arm; for the leaſt extenſion or lifting of the arm draws it from the body, and cauſes the wrinkles acroſs the breaſt; but the wrinkling acroſs the back is principally from the fore part being too ſhort from the bottom of the ſcye to the top of the ſhoulder. The method to rectify it, muſt

be

be by moving the back as much lower as the wrinkles appear.

Having taken the back from the fore part, lay the top of the back within one inch of the ſhoulder point next the ſcye, pull down the back quite tight, you will find the hip drop two inches below the fore part, which muſt be taken off. This occaſioned the above wrinkling acroſs the back, as well as the tightneſs under the arm, and alſo the twiſting of the ſleeve, as well as the binding in the neck.

Theſe little inaccuracies being rectified, Mr. Twiſt waited on the Doctor himſelf with the Coat, which fitted extremely well, and gave him great ſatisfaction.

FINIS.

Directions for placing the Copper-Plates.

Plate A.....Page 11
Plate B.....Page 44
Plate C.....Page 80.

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